BERSERK BY KENTARO MIURA

BERSERK © Kentaro Miura / Hakusensha, Inc.

BERSERK BY KENTARO MIURA

BERSERK © Kentaro Miura / Hakusensha, Inc.

ベルセルク

29

三浦建太郎 KENTARO MIURA

BERSERK 29

BY

KENTARO MIURA

三浦建太郎

TRANSLATION

DUANE JOHNSON

LETTERING AND RETOUCH

REPLIBOOKS

DARK HORSE MANGA

PRESIDENT AND PUBLISHER
MIKE RICHARDSON

US EDITORS
CHRIS WARNER
FRED LUI

COLLECTION DESIGNER
DAVID NESTELLE

English-language version produced by
DARK HORSE COMICS and DIGITAL MANGA PUBLISHING.

BERSERK vol. 29 by KENTARO MIURA

© 2005 by Kentaro Miura. All rights reserved. First published in Japan in 2005 by HAKUSENSHA, INC., Tokyo. English-language translation rights in the United States of America and Canada arranged with HAKUSENSHA, INC., Tokyo, through TOHAN CORPORATION, Tokyo. English-language translation © 2009 by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All other material © 2009 by Dark Horse Comics, Inc. Dark Horse Manga™ is a trademark of Dark Horse Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, without the express written permission of the copyright holders. Names, characters, places, and incidents featured in this publication either are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events, institutions, or locales, without satiric intent, is coincidental. All rights reserved.

Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie OR 97222

DarkHorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

First edition: May 2009

ISBN 978-1-59582-210-9

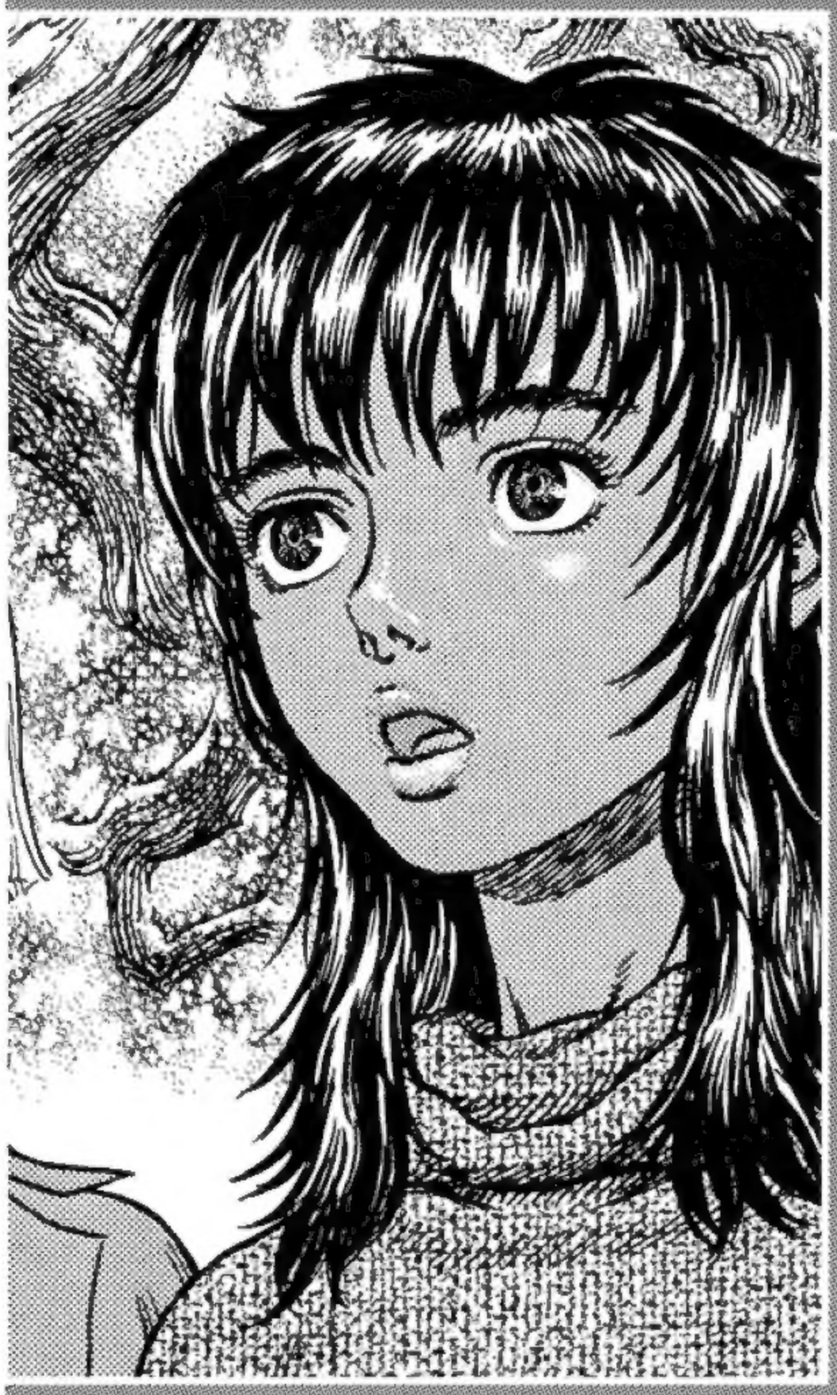
10 9 8 7 6
Printed in the United States of America

NEIL HANKERSON EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT • **TOM WEDDLE** CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER • **RANDY STRADLEY** VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLISHING • **MICHAEL MARTENS** VICE PRESIDENT OF BOOK TRADE SALES • **MATT PARKINSON** VICE PRESIDENT OF MARKETING • **DAVID SCROGGY** VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT • **DALE LaFOUNTAIN** VICE PRESIDENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • **CARA NIECE** VICE PRESIDENT OF PRODUCTION AND SCHEDULING • **NICK McWHORTER** VICE PRESIDENT OF MEDIA LICENSING • **KEN LIZZI** GENERAL COUNSEL • **DAVE MARSHALL** EDITOR IN CHIEF • **DAVEY ESTRADA** EDITORIAL DIRECTOR • **SCOTT ALLIE** EXECUTIVE SENIOR EDITOR • **CHRIS WARNER** SENIOR BOOKS EDITOR • **CARY GRAZZINI** DIRECTOR OF SPECIALTY PROJECTS • **LIA RIBACCHI** ART DIRECTOR • **VANESSA TODD** DIRECTOR OF PRINT PURCHASING • **MATT DRYER** DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL ART AND PREPRESS • **MARK BERNARDI** DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL PUBLISHING • **SARAH ROBERTSON** DIRECTOR OF PRODUCT SALES • **MICHAEL GOMBOS** DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PUBLISHING AND LICENSING

BERSERK

ベルセルク29

三浦建太郎

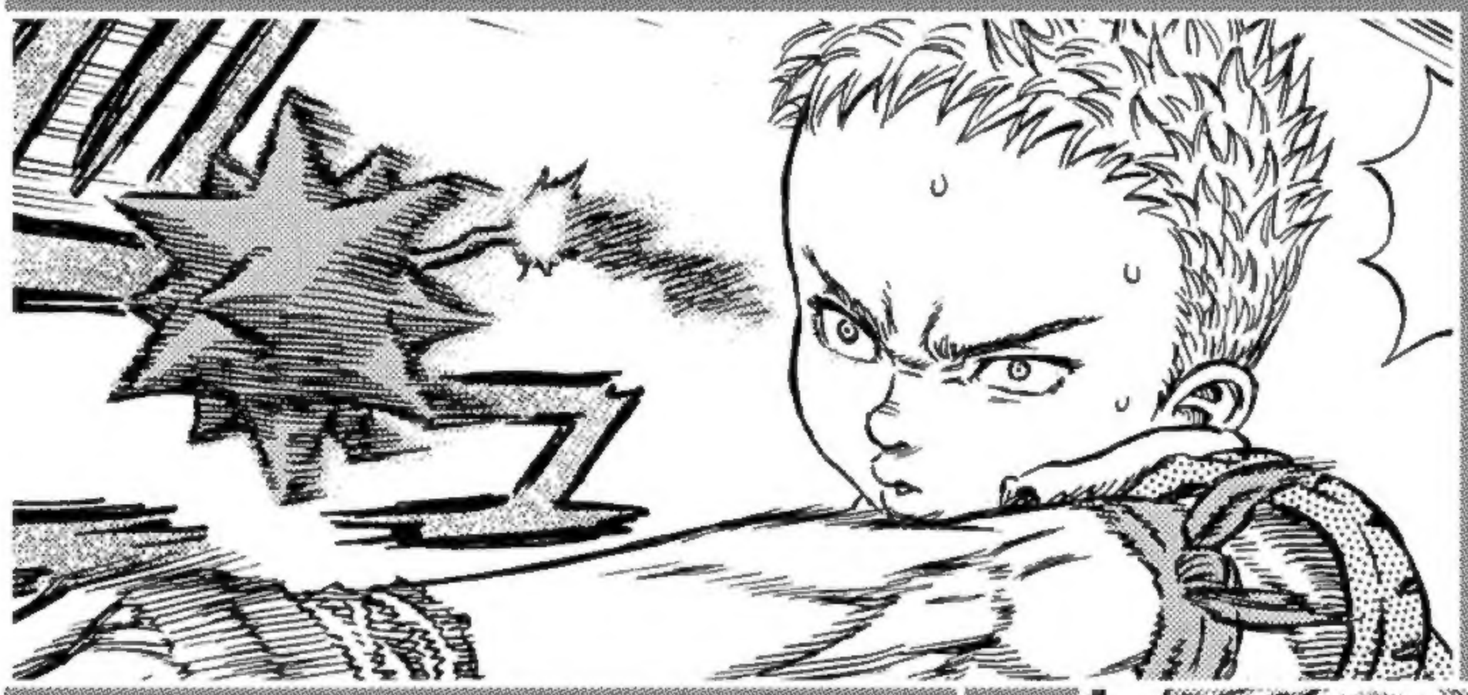


キャスカ Casca

Former unit commander of the Band of the Hawk—mentally regressed from her experience in the Eclipse. She now neither speaks nor conveys any feelings. Her Brand, which reacts to evil, is thinly shielded by Flora's talisman.

ファルネーゼ Farnese

Former commander of the Holy See's Holy Iron Chain Knights and daughter of the Vandimion family, one of influential status and wealth in the religious sphere. She seeks to learn from Guts her own means of survival and about the reality of the world.



ガッツ Guts

The Black Swordsman. He exists in the Interstice and wears the Berserker Armor, his soul constantly torn between protecting Casca and challenging Griffith. That struggle is nothing short of sublime.

パック Puck

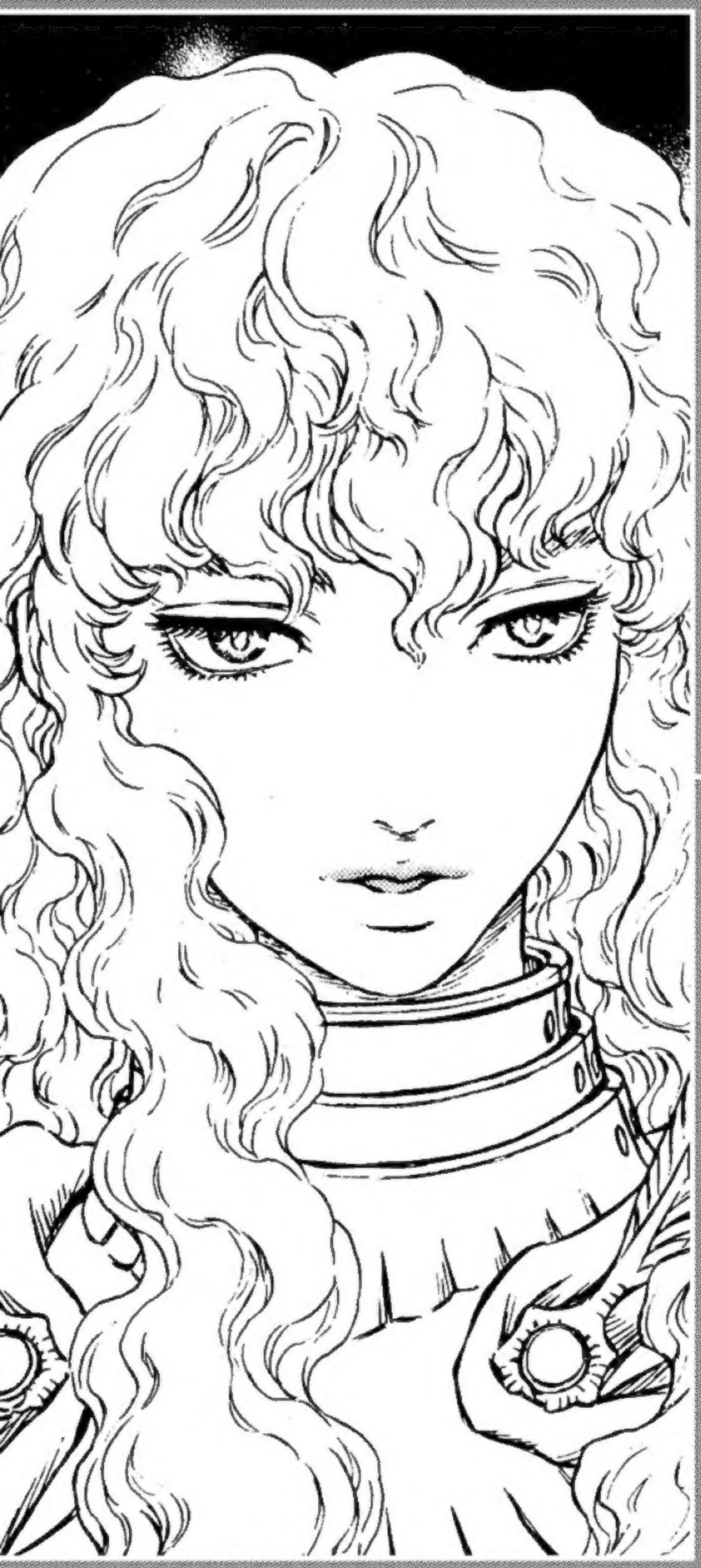
An elf who's long been with Guts on his journeys. His dust has the power to heal wounds. Also, he recently confirmed that he's a wind spirit, one of the four types of elementals. He also changes into "chestnut Puck."

イシドロ Isidro

Dreams of being the "ultimate swordsman," but his actual talent, not up to snuff, repeatedly endangers him. Nevertheless, the boy endeavors toward his dream. He is currently equipped with a fetish granted the protection of fire elementals.

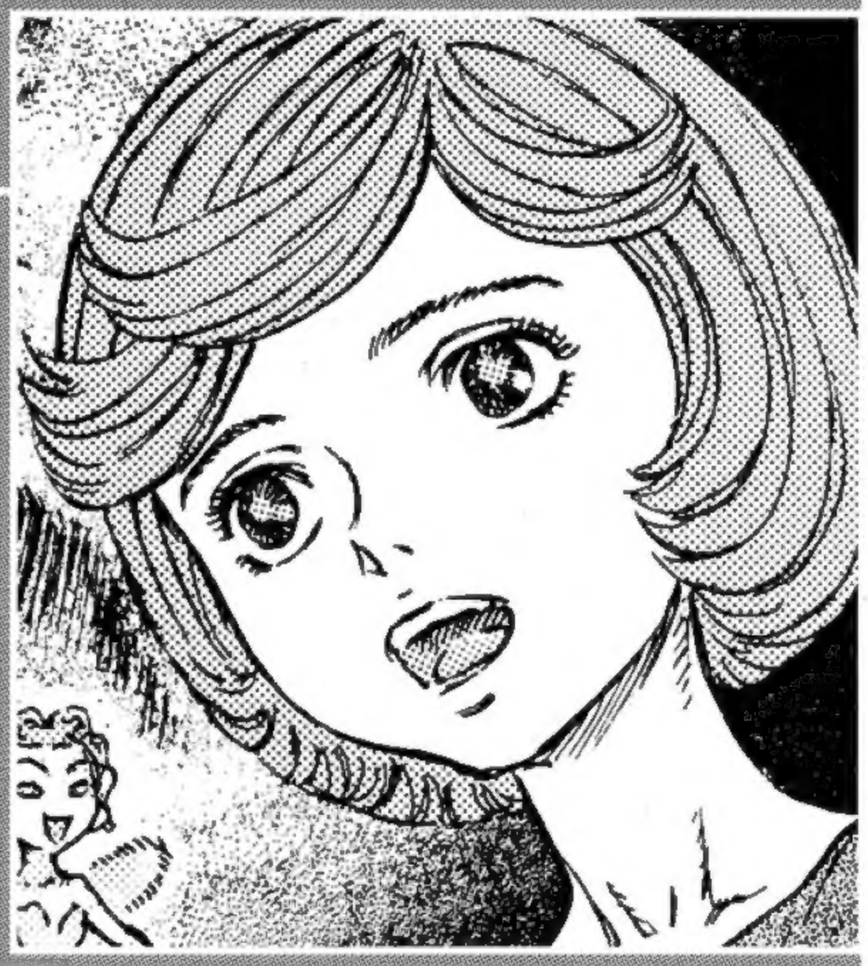
セルピコ Serpico

Attendant of Farnese, and actually her brother; however, Farnese is not aware of the blood relationship. He is skilled in fighting and is currently clad in a fetish granted the protection of wind elementals.



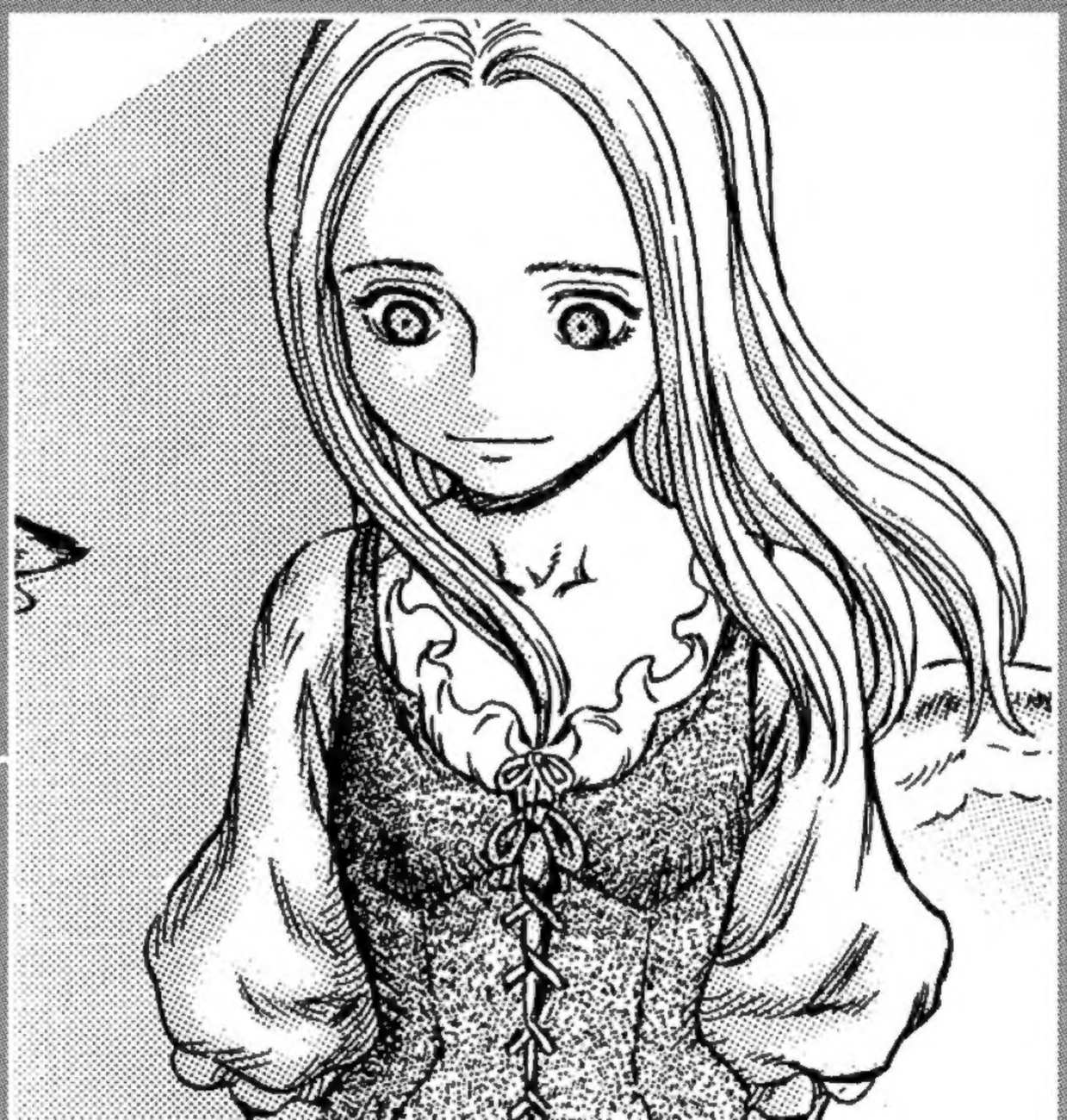
シールケ Schierke

Disciple of Flora, witch of the Spirit Tree mansion. Schierke supports Guts and the others through her use of magic; however, among her spells are some beyond her mastery, which occasionally place her in great peril as she tries to aid her allies. She has a stilted side to her personality.



グリフィス Griffith

Through the Eclipse of the Crimson Behelit, Griffith was reborn as Femto of the Godhand. Later he was incarnated in the imitation Eclipse catalyzed by the egg-shaped apostle, thus returning to the physical world, in which he became the "absolute," without equal. He leads the reborn Band of the Hawk.



ソーニャ Sonia

Sonia was taken prisoner during a Kushan invasion of her city, but was then rescued by Griffith. Due to her abilities, she is now the medium of the reborn Band of the Hawk. She has a free and unbridled personality, but also a showy, courageous side.

ベルセルク 29

CONTENTS

FALCON OF THE MILLENNIUM EMPIRE ARC
FALCONIA CHAPTER

BLOODSHED 7

WARRIOR 27

A MEAGER SUPPER 47

HOMING 69

VANDIMION 89

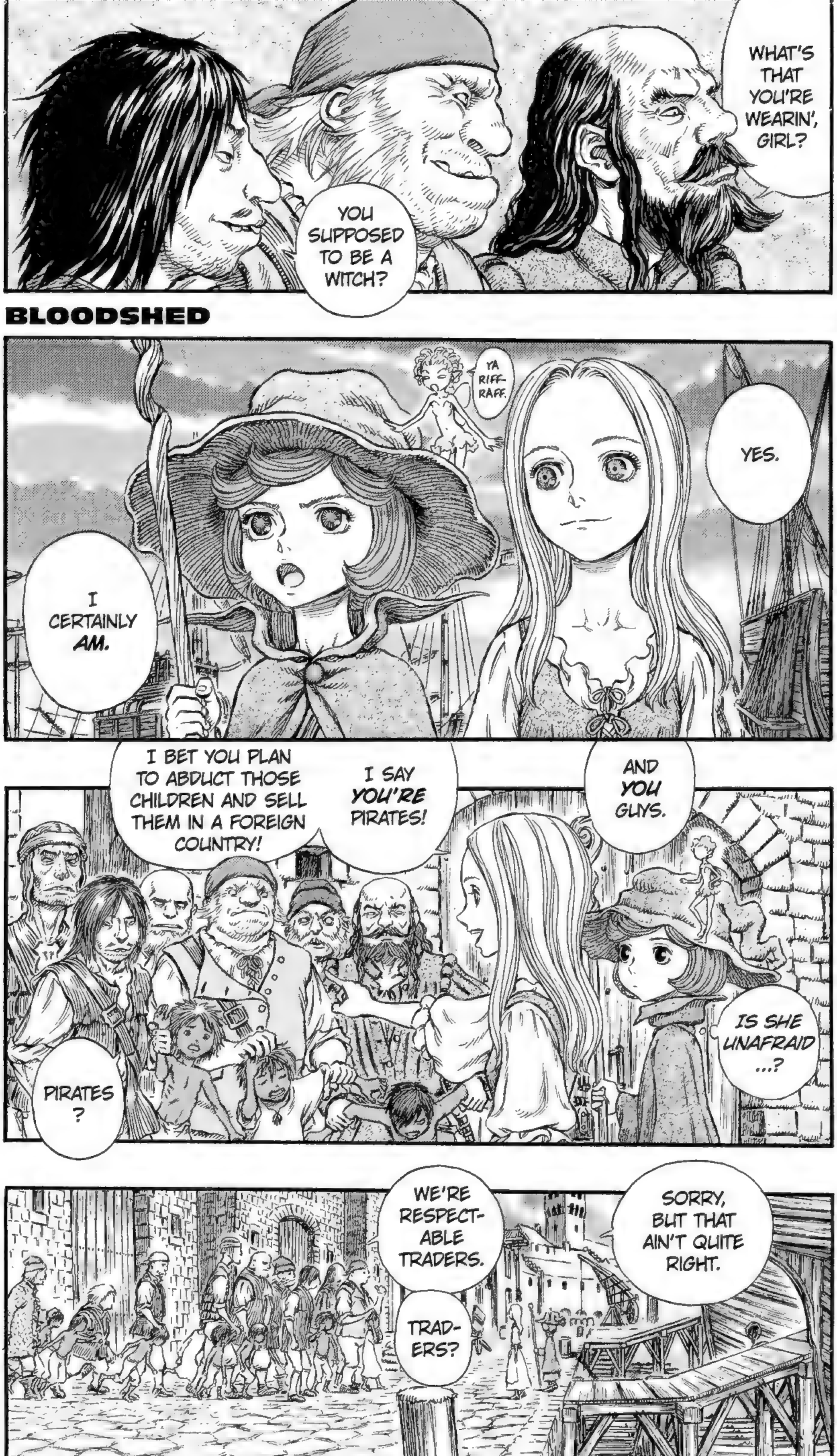
IN THE GARDEN 109

THE WHITE LILY OF THE FIELD 129

MOTHER 151

THE BALL 173

THE COLONNADE CHAMBER 193


WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE WEARIN', GIRL?
YOU SUPPOSED TO BE A WITCH?
YA RIFF-RAFF.
YES.
I CERTAINLY AM.
I BET YOU PLAN TO ABDUCT THOSE CHILDREN AND SELL THEM IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY!
I SAY YOU'RE PIRATES!
AND YOU GUYS.
PIRATES ?
IS SHE UNAFRAID ...?
WE'RE RESPECT-ABLE TRADERS.
TRAD-ERS?
SORRY, BUT THAT AIN'T QUITE RIGHT.

WE MAKE OUR LIVIN' BUYIN' AND SELLIN' PEOPLE.

WE'RE IN THE *SLAVE TRADE.*

...ARE *GOODS* WE BOUGHT LEGITIMATELY FROM THIS TOWN'S MERCHANTS.

THESE KIDS...

SLAVE TRADE...

DON'T LUMP US IN WITH *THEM.* *WE'VE* GOT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT.

I KNEW IT! YOU'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN PIRATES.

LOOKS LIKE EVEN *THIS* VRITANNIS LOT COULDN'T STOMACH LAYIN' HANDS ON CHILDREN.

BUT IT AIN'T LIKE THEY CAN BE LEFT IN THE CITY NEITHER.

SO THAT'S WHERE *WE* COME IN.

RIGHT NOW, KUSHAN ARE CONTRABAND IN VRITANNIS, EVEN AS SLAVES. THEY GET ROUNDED UP BY OFFICIALS AND HANGED.

THESE KIDS' PARENTS GOT HANGED AS SUCH, AND NOW HERE THEY ARE.

IT'LL MEAN MONEY IN OUR POCKETS.

THEY AIN'T NO USE AS OARSMEN IN A GALLEY SHIP... BUT HELL, WE'LL PROBABLY GET A HIGH PRICE FOR 'EM IN SOME COLONY TOWN DOWN SOUTH.

?

MAYBE THIS PLACE BURNING DOWN'S *NOT* SUCH A BAD IDEA...

OH, BROTHER.

...ABOUT CITY LAWS AND TRADER RATIONALE.

I AM A WITCH, SO I COULDN'T CARE LESS...

TAKE 'EM OUT!

KEEP MOUTHIN' OFF AGAINST GROWNUPS, AND WE'LL SELL *YOU* OFF, TOO!!

LITTLE HARPY !!

*TOK
ポコ

...HN?

WHA...?

NO NEED TO ROLL WITH SOME KID'S JOKE.

DON'T BE STUPID.

I... I CAN'T MOVE.

HEY, WHAT'S WRONG ?

B-BETTER LET ME MOVE, OR I'LL BEAT YOU UP!!

*FX: HNNGH

うぐ...

H-HARPY GIRL!! WHAT'D YOU DO ?!

NATCH.

WHEEEE!!

THAT'S *GREAT!!* *MAGIC?!* WAS THAT *MAGIC?!*

YOU SHOULD'VE FROZEN HIS MOUTH, TOO.

THIS GUY'S A MORON.

*WHOA

J-JUST *SUG-GES-TION.*

*HAHHH HAHHH

YEAHHH, I WAS *EXPECTIN'* THIS.

BINGO.

*WHRRRL

URRK!

SET ME FREE IF YOU DON'T WANNA GET HU--

*KLONK

WHAT THE--?!

?!

*FX: WHUMP

N-NO, HE IS NOT.

HE'S JUST A MONKEY.

NAH, NAH.

IS HE BY ANY CHANCE...

ISIDRO.

OH.

HEY! YOU! PIRATES!

QUIT BREAKIN' THE LAW!

WHO'RE YOU?

I CAN'T SEE A BUNCHA PIRATES GATHERIN' UP ALL THESE KIDS FOR SOME PICNIC AT SEA! *AGHH!* WHAT A DISGRACE!

WHAT'D YOU SAY, KID?!

I'M WITH *MUSHROOM GIRL* OVER THERE.

...

HE REALLY *IS* LIKE A MONKEY.

DAHAHA...! DAMN, THE *MOUTH* ON THIS KID!

...

PRETTY MUCH

CHESTNUT

BOMP ZHOOP BOMM

IF YOU'RE PIRATES, YOU SHOULD BE KIDNAPPIN' *GIRLIES* WHO'RE MORE LIKE, Y'KNOW, *BOMP ZHOOP BOMM!!*

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL A TREASURE CHEST... *PIRATE BOOTY!!* YOU GUYS'RE JUST GROSS!

WHO CARES ...

*HNNGH

...WHAT YOU THINK?

OH, HE'S STILL ALIVE

DON'T YOU *MESS* AROUND WITH GROWNUPS!!

Y'LITTLE SONUVA BITCH!!

'CAUSE YOU'RE SO MATURE.

*SHAPP

HEENGN...

I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT...

OH.

ISIDRO ...!!

HE WELL CAN DO A LITTLE

NOT BAD!

*GULP

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME...

IGHH... BLEEDIN'... ARTERY... !!

THE MOOD'S CHANGED.

...I EVER...

...CUT DOWN SOMEONE.

NOW THAT WE'VE SEEN OUR BUDDY'S BLOOD.

NOW YOU'VE LEFT US NO CHOICE. WE GOTTA DRAW, TOO.

WE WON'T GO EASY JUST 'CAUSE YOU'RE A KID.

NOW THAT IT'S COME TO THIS...

STOP IT!!

KEEP QUIET AND WATCH, MISSY, IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET HURT.

WHOA!

.....!!

DON'T YOU USE THAT!!

HE'S TRYING TO HIDE YOUR TRUE COLORS.

HE'S JUST STUBBORN.

THAT'S NOT IT.

COME NOW...

WHAT ARE YOU SO ANGRY ABOUT ?!

*LUNGE

YOU LITTLE...

HE'S HEROIC, ISN'T HE? ♡

SHE CAN HEAR THE THOUGHT TRANSFER-ENCE...?!

GO FOR IT, MONKEY BOY!!

*SHLAK

*FX: JUMP

*FX: THOCK

QUIT SNEAKIN' AROUND ...!!

*FX: ZHA

*SHNNK

HYOWW!

GODDAMN BARREL'S IN THE WAY!

GET BACK HERE!

EEE, BLOOD...!! HE GOT AN ARTERY !! ....

Y'LITTLE ...!

PUCK SPAAARK!

*FX: FLASH

CLOSE YOUR EYES !!

UH-UH!

*FX: CHOSH

*FX: FLSHH

ZUPUCK!

YOU AIN'T GETTIN' AWAY !!

LITTLE SHIT...!

...WHEN THEY'RE ON A ROLL, AT LEAST.

WELL ...

EXCEL-LENT COMBO!

WOW, WOW!! AGAINST GROWN-UPS, EVEN!!

BUT AT THIS RATE, THEY WILL EVENTUALLY CATCH HIM...

.....

GUTS ?

ALAS, EVERY INN MUST BE FULL.

KID, YOU'VE CAUSED A LOT OF TROUBLE!

*ZHA

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, SON!

*FX: HAHHH HAHHH

COUNTER-ATTACK WHEN THEY FLINCH FROM THE PUCK SPARK!

WE'LL BEAT YOU HALF TO DEATH, HANG YOU FROM THE MAST FOR A DAY, THEN CALL IT EVEN.

THROW DOWN YOUR SWORD, AND WE'LL AT LEAST SPARE YOUR LIFE.

*TWITCH

*BDADUMP BDADUMP

*CLOP

?!

*HRRRRHRHRN

WHAT THE...?!

YOU MUST'VE FOLLOWED ME!!

YOU'RE THAT GUY FROM--

BUTT OUT OR YOU'LL REGRET IT!!

WHO'RE YOU, PAL?!

*BHHRSH

HI THERRRE.

*FX: HAHHH

.....

YOU.

...OR SOME-THING LIKE THAT, I GUESS?

"THE DUCK KNIGHT."

AGAIN WITH HER NONSENSE.

DO YOU KNOW HIM?

DON'T TELL ME *HE'S* THE HAWK!

NAH, NAH.

HE'S MY WATCH-DOG.

LET'S SEE...

...?

OHH?! YOU WANT A FIGHT?! DAMMIT, THIS'S WHY KIDS'RE SO--

NOBODY ASKED YOU!!

HEY!

WHOSE PUPIL BE HE?

I'LL LEND YOU A HAND.

LOOKS LIKE MY COMPANION'S IN YOUR CARE.

*SHNNK

*HYNN

*CHK

*BDADUMP

*BDADUMP

*SHNNK

*FX: VSSHHHH

HE...!!

NOT BAD.

M-MY ARM...!! MY ARRRM...!!

TWITCH

*CHSSH

DROPEY...

I WON'T...

ギリ

*FX: SQUEEZE

...SLEW WITHOUT HESITATION!!

HE FRIGGIN'...

...BE SCARED!!

*RAHHH

I WON'T...

*CHINNNG

*FLASH

*ZHHF

*CHA

*WHACK

*GSHANNNG

THIS IS WHY I HATE KIDS.

TAK

BOSS MAN!

THEY DON'T KNOW THEIR PLACE WHEN DEALIN' WITH ADULTS.

A PICTURE-PERFECT ONE...

I SAY *PIRATE!*

武者
WARRIOR

HAH
HAH
HAH

EVEN ACTIN' OUTTA SOME SENSE OF JUSTICE, IF YOU TRAMPLE 'EM, THAT DEMANDS A BIT OF PUNISHMENT.

TEACHIN' CHILDREN ***MANNERS*** IS WE ADULTS' RESPONSIBILITY, AFTER ALL.

LOOK HERE, YOU LOT.

THERE'S ***SOLEMN RULES*** WHEN IT COMES TO ADULT SOCIETY.

*FX: HAH HAH HAH

*FX: GRAB

EEEEE!

KILL THOSE BRATS ...!!

P-PLEASE, BOSS MAN!!!

COME AGAIN?!

HUHH ?!

C-CAPTAIN...! CAPTAAAIN!!!

*BITE BITE

*SHRRRIP SHRRRIP

WE'VE TAKEN UP A BUSINESS THAT LETS US LOOK SOCIETY IN THE EYE.

YOU LACK CHARACTER REFINEMENT, GENTS.

WE'VE COME CLEAN NOW.

.....!!

RIGHT, THAT'S BETTER.

*FX: TOSS

*FX: KRIK KRIK

*FX: INCH

HE'S JUST BONY.

WELL, DAMN! HERE I THOUGHT PIRATES WOULD HAVE MORE BACKBONE.

SHATTERS MY ILLU--

*DASH

*CHIINNNG

HE JUST JUMPED IN...

JERK! AH!

*GLANG

*JING

*KLONG

GOOOO! WIN, AND GET PROMOTED FROM DOMESTIC TO WILD DUCK!

HEY! KEEP STILL, YOU!

*CLANNG

YOU'RE OF QUITE THE STOCK.

THE ORTHODOX ARISTOCRAT SCHOOL OF FIGHTING.

YOU SEEM TO HAVE QUITE SOME EXPE-RIENCE, FOR YOUR AGE.

*FX: BLASH

*FX: TMP

BUT...

WAIT ...!

*THMP

*SWAYYY

HAVE YOU ANY EXPERIENCE CROSSING SWORDS ON FOOTING AS UNSTABLE AS *THIS*?

.....!!

*CRAK

*KEENG

LOOK OUT.

*STOMP

*FX: TOTTER

*POINT

*FX: BLOOSH

*THUDDD

*GAJINNNG

YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'RE OF NOBLE BIRTH. MAYBE I CAN GET A RANSOM FROM YOUR RELATIVES...

NOW THEN, HOW SHALL WE GO ABOUT SETTLING THIS?

...YOU'D PROBABLY FETCH A FINE PRICE, SOLD AS A MALE PROSTITUTE TO A KUSHAN HAREM.

WITH THEM GRACEFUL FEATURES ...

.....!!

THAT WOULD BE THE EXPERIENCE GAP. YOU MUSTN'T GO AROUND TAUNTING ADULTS, M'LAD.

*CLANNNG

*KLINNG

*VYNN

THE STAR TAKES THE STAGE! YOU STAY BACK, BIT PART!

YEAHHH!

YEAH!

YEAH!

HE'S ...!

I CAN FIGHT YOU FROM ANY STANCE!

'COURSE I CAN! EVERY TIME I ROLL I'M SWINGIN' A SWORD!

HOO...! YOU CAN KEEP UP WITH ME ON BOATS.

*JING

*CLANG

HOLD!

STILL... THIS GUY'S GOOD FOR ONLY HAVIN' ONE LEG!

Y'KNOW, YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE SURE HAVE...

GUESS THAT'S AN OLD HABIT OF...

*CHIK

...MINE!

SO, CARE TO WORK FOR ME? I'LL TRAIN YOU PERSONALLY.

IT STILL NEEDS WORK, BUT WITH YOUR FIGHTING STYLE YOU'D MAKE A FINE PIRATE.

SHOVE IT UP YOUR ASS! WHAT HAPPENED TO COMIN' CLEAN?!

*VYNN

EH

*VPP

*ZHFAAA

SON OF A...!

...BUT YOUR SWORD-PLAY'S THAT OF AN INEX-PERIENCED WHELP.

YOU'RE TERRIBLE LIVELY ENOUGH...

...THIS IS HOW *ADULTS* DO THINGS, LAD.

BUT... WELL...

...AND YOURS AIN'T GOT IT.

THERE'S A THIRST FOR BLOOD IN SWORDPLAY THAT SAYS YOU WANT YOUR OPPONENT'S LIFE...

NO STRUG-GLIN', NOW.

JUST A USELESS LITTLE KID AFTER ALL.

OHHH, SO CLOSE. THE WILD DUCK WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT.

YOU DOGS! TIE THEM ALL UP!

NOW, ENOUGH PLAY-TIME.

Y... YES-SIR!

WAIT.

OH.

NOW, GO SHOW 'EM HOW IT'S DONE.

...I'LL HAVE TO...

AS I SUS-PECTED...

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE OKAY.

...YEAH.

*GRAB

*FWMP

WITH-DRAWWW.

*ZUPUCK

SHALL I SPARK 'EM?

!

HEAVY ...

*FLING

I JUST TOLD YOU TO WITH-DRAWWW !!

*VNN

*PLOOOSH

ヴァンパアーン

*AHHHH

あああああ

GOOD GRIEF, JUST WHEN I FORGET MY HUNGER AND FALL ASLEEP...

WHO WOULD DENI-GRATE THE FACE OF A KNIGHT ?!

WHO DARES ?!

.....

HN?!

ガヴァヴァ

*TMP

*TMP

*TMP

*WHOM

*WHOM

*WHOM

HN NN NN

ヒュッ

*HALT

I WILL DEAL WITH YOU!!!

SCOUN-DRELS!!!

OUTTA NOWHERE ...?!

WH-WHO THE HELL'S *THAT*?!

JUSTICE IS IN MY HEART!!!

A KNIGHT'S INTU-ITION!!!

NO NEED FOR ANY WORDS !!!

THAT IS TO BE A KNIGHT !!

*OHRYAAA

うおりゃあ

TO ACT WHEN THE TIME ARRIVES !!

俺たちの海

*WHOCK

*ZEIRYAAAA

*WHACK

*WHACK

HELP ...

CAN'T SWIM...

I CAN'T ...

*BLASH

*BLASH

WAI...

GULB

HNGG!

H-HE'S TOO STR--

RAHHHHHH!!

WHY'S THAT MUSTACHE ARMOR LOOK SO FAMILIAR ...?

WHAT THE HELL?

*WENK

WHAT KINDA PIRATE ARE YOU?

WELL AREN'T *YOU* HIGH AND MIGHTY!!

NOW'S OUR CHANCE!!

*HAIYAA

.....

THE GATE'S GOING TO CLOOOSE.

WHAT IN THE WORLD'S GOING ON?

THAT WOULD BE...

CHILDREN OR NOT, I CAN'T BELIEVE WE MADE IT OUTSIDE THE CITY WITH THIS MANY KUSHAN AND NO HASSLE...

PIECE A' CAKE, THOUGH I'D SETTLE FOR DINNER.

OF A SORT.

...A SECRET.

THAT'S OBVIOUS.

...BUT NOW WHAT HAPPENS TO THESE CHIL-DREN?

SO... WE TRIED SO HARD TO GET THEM OUT...

COULD SHE BE GENUINE...?

AND THERE'S SOMETHING ON HER HAT...

STILL... THIS WITCH HE WAS LOOKING FOR...

THERE YOU GO AGAIN ...

THAT SETTLES IT!

BECAUSE YOUR MEDIUM SAYS SO!

UH...

ME-DIUM?!

IS THAT ALL RIGHT...?

!

WE'RE TAKING THEM WITH US, OF COURSE.

I DON'T WANT TO SMEAR MUD ON A FUN MEMORY.

WELL, IT'S NOT AS IF WE CAN JUST ABANDON THEM.

*FX: HYNN

HEY.

WE'LL TAKE THEM TO THE BAND OF...

FINE...

GREAT, I CAN JUST HEAR SIR LOCUS NOW...

RIGHT?

BESIDES, OUR LEADER'S NOT SO CHEAP A PERSON THAT HE'D COMPLAIN...

...OVER SOME-THING LIKE THIS.

CAN YOU PROTECT THEM UNARMED?

AW, QUIT BEIN' A GOODY GOODY.

"WHAP"

DON'T BE ABSURD!

A STOLEN SWORD ...?!

I FILCHED IT FROM A PIRATE IN THE CONFUSION.

TAKE IT.

*GH

AND YOU! YOU LOOKED AS SHAMEFUL AS AN OVER-TURNED FROG!

SO DID YOU! AND YOU LOOKED DRUNK, STUMBLIN' AROUND ON THAT BOAT!

LAME! HOW CAN YOU BECOME A KNIGHT THAT WAY?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO DROPPED HIS SWORD IN THE WATER!

HE'S GOOD AT PROVOKING PEOPLE.

A NAT-URAL.

AT THAT, HE IS GIFTED.

'TIS THE SOUL OF A WARRIOR.

SO, MISS WITCH...

JOOOE

FU SH SH

BACK AT YA! I'LL MAKE YOU EAT DIRT FOR DINNER!

'SHM SHM SHM

YOU'LL BE EATING NOTHING BUT SOUP FOR DINNER TONIGHT!

...WHY NOT COME ALONG WITH US?

IF YOU'D LIKE TO...

EH...?

*GONNNNG

*GONNNNG

*GONNNNG

*GONNNNG

A MEAGER SUPPER
ささやかな晩餐

ALONG...

...WITH YOU?

ALSO... A MELTING POT OF HUMANS LIVING TOGETHER.

...EVEN SOME WHO *AREN'T* HUMAN ...

?

NOBLES, COMMONERS, WANDERERS, SERFS, MERCHANTS, EVEN KUSHAN.

THERE ARE ALL SORTS WHERE WE'RE FROM.

WE'D WEL-COME YOU.

...BUT NO ONE JUDGES ANYONE OR DRIVES THEM OUT FOR THEIR BIRTH OR PERSONAL HISTORY...

I MEAN, THERE ARE QUARRELS AT TIMES...

...LIKE IN THIS CITY.

...THERE'S NO PLACE FOR YOU IN THE CURRENT WORLD.

MAYBE YOU FEEL LIKE...

I...

WH-WHATTA WE DO?

.....

I...

HEY, MAN, DON'T LOOK AWAY...

.....

...IN THE MIDDLE OF A FIGHT.

YOU GET DIS-TRACTED ...

GET UP, STAND UP, JOOOOE!

*KRAK

MY JOOOOE!

THAT'S ***ARROGANCE!*** BATTLE'S NOT SO GENEROUS THAT YOU CAN HELP YOUR FRIEND'S PREDICAMENT ***THAT*** WAY.

IT WAS THE SAME WAY EARLIER! YOU FEARED TO BE THE ONE TO TAKE YOUR ENEMY'S LIFE WHEN HIS SWORD WAS DRAWN!

YOU'RE NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A SWORDS-MAN!!

.....!!

ISIDRO...

NOBODY ASKED YOU TO!

I SAVED YOU FIRST!

UGLY HUMAN WORLD.

'ZAT WHAT YOU SAY, WHEN I SAVED YOU?!

DONNNG!

"WHMP"

...HAVE A PLACE...

...I...

...TO GO BACK TO.

THANK YOU.

BUT...

OKAY THEN.

.....

WE'RE HUNGRY, TOO.

IS *HE* THE ONE, THEN...?

MEDIUM SENSOR.

はやや *AGHHH

?

SO, THAT MAN STANDING AT THE GATE.

OH, RIGHT, I STILL HAVEN'T ASKED YOUR NAME. I'M *SONIA.*

I AM *SCHIERKE.*

I'M *NALERA.*

TOO BAD.

PHOOEY. YOU TURNED ME DOWN.

I AM SORRY...

GO AHEAD, *DRAW* A SWORD OR A KNIFE. I'LL TAKE YOU BAREHANDED.

I CAN'T TELL *YOU* FROM A MASHED MEAT BUN.

*BLFF

FIGHT!

DOH-BEH STUBBRN, WHA NO' UZE THA' SWRRD?

*HNAHHH HNAHHH

WHUDZ RONG? YUH PRIDDY FEZZ A MEZZ.

JUST SLEEP, JOOOE!

ENOUGH! DON'T STAND UP!

YOU TOO, ISIDRO.

IF YOU PLAY TOO LONG, I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND, MULE.

SPEAK *HUMAN,* MOUND FACE!!

OH YIH?! LOOG LYGE YUH WON' GE' I' 'TUL AH BREAG A' YUH BAG TEED!

*WHUNK

*BOK

*KRNCH

CHIPS

*KRNCH

I'M *MULE.* WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

IDJIDO.

IDJIDO!!

SCHIERKE.

I'LL REMEMBER THAT NAME, IDJIDO!

*FX· BOING BOING

プルプル

HUH ...?

...AS FAST AS YOU CAN.

GET AWAY FROM THIS CITY...

?

WHAT WAS...?!

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, OWL OF THE FOREST.

AGAIN...? THIS ISN'T GOODBYE?

HMHM...

...ARE SURE TO MEET AGAIN.

THE YOUNG OWL AND YOUNG KITE...

OWUL?

WHAT AN INTERESTIN' FACE.

WHAT AN INTERESTIN' GIRL.

.....

UND...

"WE'D BETTER GET BACK TOO. GATE'S GONNA CLOSE"...

...IS WHAT HE SAID.

*ZHA

WULL...

WEHD BEDDA GED BAG DOO. GADES GUNNA GLOZE.

UB...

...ZORRY.

ボソ.

*MUMBLE MUMBLE ボソ

...BOT DUH HAD 'N' CLODES...

UUUU.

ABOLIT THE HAT AND CLOTHES, SOR--

*PBBBT

DOU-BLES!

*FX: SQUEEZE

AND I AM SORRY FOR BEING OBSTI-NATE...

HUHH?

CAN'T HEAR YOU. TRY TALKIN' USIN' HUMAN WORDS.

THANK YOU...

...FOR COMING.

NOT AT ALL. I WAS OF NO USE.

DON'T SPOIL HIM LIKE THAT, OR HE'LL TAKE ADVAN-TAGE.

NAU, FUD, FUD!

WITH THOSE LIPS, EVERYTHING'LL TASTE LIKE BLOOD.

AH DON' CAYA!

KEH!

HE'S SULK-IN'.

OH.

.....

STAGGERIN' AROUND IN THAT HEAVY ARMOR OF HIS.

AND SO I TOTALLY ALMOST HAD HIM ON HIS KNEES!

*SHRREP

AS YOU CRY WHILE YOU EAT.

ONE MORE HIT, MAKE NO MISTAKE, HE'D HAVE BEEN FISH BAIT! HE WAS LUCKY, GETTIN' BAILED OUT BY A GIRL!

POKE POKE

IT HURTS ME JUST TO LOOK AT YOU.

IT CANNOT BE HELPED. THE CITY IS SO FULL OF SOLDIERS, WE MUST BE THANKFUL THERE WAS ANY ROOM AT ALL.

STILL, THOUGH, IT'S NOTHIN' BUT RUFFIANS IN HERE. WEREN'T THERE ANY BETTER PLACES?

CANTEENS ARE ALIKE ANYWHERE YOU GO. GAMBLING, FIGHTS, WHORES...

*CHOCK

*UHEEE

HEY, GIRL, C'MERE 'N' FILL MY CUP.

UH, SIR...

B-BUT...

SORRY TO KEEP EVERYONE WAITING.

COME ON.

PLEASE DON'T LIFT YOUR FOOT OVER THE TABLE DURING A MEAL.

...AND DRUNKS.

WOWWW!

TADAHHH!

...

STITCHES FOR WITCHES.

...TO LET US HAVE SOME OF HER DAUGHTER'S OLD CLOTHES.

THIS INN'S PROPRIETRESS WAS KIND ENOUGH...

IT IS SOMEWHAT CONSTRICTIVE AND DIFFICULT TO MOVE IN.

AND I FEEL NERVOUS WITHOUT MY WAND...

IT FEELS AWKWARD...

BUT OH-SO-LOVELY. ♡

IT SUITS YOU QUITE WELL.

IT IS TO BE ENDURED, WHILE IN THIS CITY.

YOU LOOK LIKE ANY OTHER CITY GIRL, AT LEAST.

A BROOM MIGHT WORK BETTER THAN A WAND.

チラ

...

*FX: GLANCE

WELL...

IT'S A NICE DISGUISE.

NO ONE'S GONNA GUESS THAT WHAT'S INSIDE'S A SCAAARY WITCH WHO LEVELS VILLAGES.

*SSSP

ズズ・

WHAT ?

WH...

A MONKEY TO THE END.

YOU NEVER LEARN.

*GYA HAH HAH HAH HAH

ギャハハハハ!

GET LOST!

I MUST DECLINE.

SO, WANT TO COME HAVE A DRINK?

*PLACH

!

HEY, GOOD-LOOKIN'!

BOOZY BREATH

MORE VICTIMS

WHAT HAVE WE *HERE?* THREE GIRLS IN THIS CORNER... BUT ONE'S A KID.

OH, NO!

HEY! DRUNK-ASS!!

WHY, YOU PEOPLE!

WHAT, BOY?

YOU THINK YOU SHOULD BE HERE ?!

A *KID* IN A PLACE LIKE *THIS*, DR--

AHH...

...FOR STAININ' OUR GIRL'S NICEST CLOTHES.

WHAT THE HELL?!

AG HH?!

ドカッ

I GET THE FEELIN' HE WAS SAYIN' SOMETHIN' DOWNRIGHT PROPER...

*FX: KRASSH

THAT WAS PAYBACK ...

ブン ブン

*FX: SHAKE SHAKE

...."OUR"...

...IS HOPE-LESSLY VULGAR...

...THIS WORLD IS OF PEOPLE...

MISTRESS, THIS CITY...

IS THIS KINDA THING A THEME TODAY?

*WOOF WOOF

*OOHAHAHAHAHA

OH, LORD, I DO THANK THEEEE!

*STUFF

*CRASSSH

*WHUDDD

*FX GLANCE GLANCE

A KNIGHT MUST EAT, TOO...

OHH, FIGHTING ON AN EMPTY STOMACH ...

*FX TOTTER TOTTER

*GRRRR

SHOO!

*GATHER

*GATHER

WHAT'S THIS?!

OHH ?!

*RAHHHHH

FOOLISH...

DONNNG

SMASH!

OH, WHY MUST THIS HAPPEN?

ALTHOUGH...

NOT BAD AT ALL.

WHY, YOU...!

*VIP

MISTRESS...

TAKE 'IM OUT!

TAHH!

*KRISSSH

EHEHEH... WIMMINNN.

*FX: SHFF

*CRASSSH

*WHMP

...AND DISGRACEFUL.

...I CAN SMILE.

DESPITE ALL THAT...

HOMING

帰巣

BERSERK

*SHNK

MMM.

IT BAKED WELL THIS TIME.

THE COUNTRY COOKING OF MY MOTHER'S FAMILY WAS NEVER ALL THAT MUCH TO SPEAK OF...

THANKS. YOU HELPED SO MUCH, ANNA.

GOOD EFFORT, YOUR HIGHNESS.

I'M SURE EVEN *LORD GRIFFITH* WOULD LIKE SOME OF THIS.

WELL, I SUPPOSE CONFECTIONS CAN RARELY BE EATEN ON A BATTLEFIELD.

JUST WALK OVER AND SEE HIM.

BUT, YOU NEEDN'T GO OUT OF YOUR WAY TO BAKE UP SUCH A PRETEXT.

I COULD NEVER GO AND BOTHER HIM.

N-NO! LORD GRIFFITH SEEMS TO BE SO BUSY.

IN FACT, I'D NEVER SEEN HER **THIS** CHEERFUL EVEN **BEFORE** WINDHAM FELL TO THE KUSHAN.

THANK GOODNESS, REALLY, THAT THE PRINCESS IS CHEERFUL AGAIN.

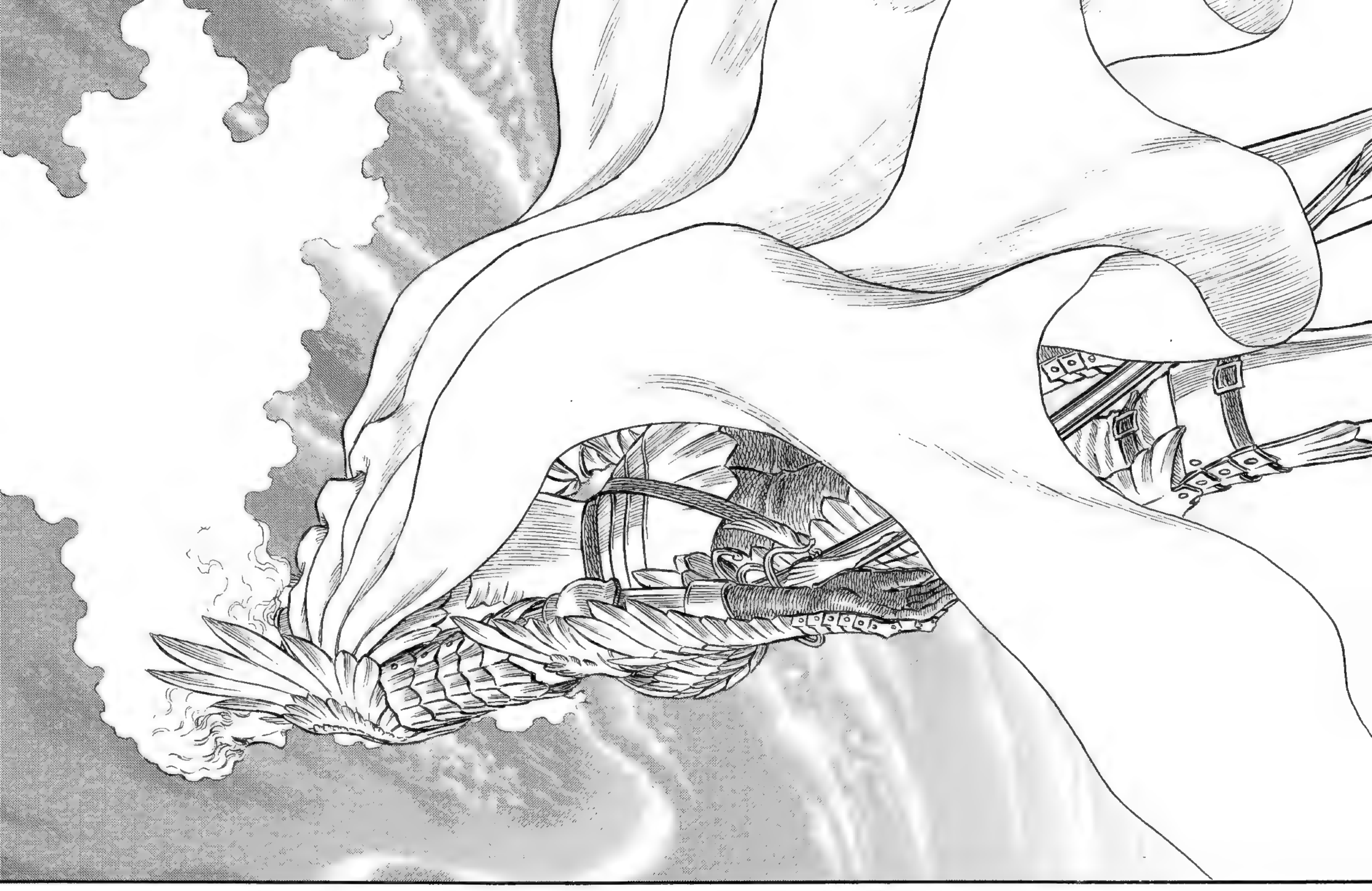
SO PLEASE, GO GIVE HIM THESE FRESH BAKED GOODS AS A REWARD FOR HIS EFFORTS.

TRUE, HE CERTAINLY HAS TO WORK HARD IN ORDER TO RECLAIM MIDLAND...

...THIS ACTUALLY IS A BATTLE-FIELD.

EVEN THOUGH ...

111



ONE CLIT FROM ETERNITY...

ALMOST LIKE A PAINTING...

...I MUSTN'T TOUCH HIM...

IT FEELS LIKE...

*TMP

*TMP

*TMP

HEY, HOLD ON...!

LORD GRIFFIITH!

WHEEE!

HERE I AAAM!

WELCOME BACK, SONIA.

THANKS TO WHICH, I'M EXHALISTED.

IT WAS LOADS OF FUN. I EVEN MADE A NEAT FRIEND, AND WE HAD A LITTLE ADVENTURE.

HOW WAS THE SEA?

AYE!

IN THAT CASE, I COULD...

GOOD WORK, MULE. I'D LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT THE CITY ONCE YOU'VE CAUGHT YOUR BREATH.

AND ABOUT YOUR FACE.

EXCUSE ME...

UH...

HERE...

LORD GRIFFITH.

AH, PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.

.....

I BAKED SOME SWEETS.

IF YOU WISH...

E... EVERY-ONE COULD...

A MARVELOUS TASTE... AND FLUFFY!

HEY ...

MMMM, GOOD!

LET'S HAVE A LOOK-SEE!

WOW, SWEETS ?

...

HEY!

HERE, LORD GRIFFITH.

IT'S SWEET AND DELICIOUS.

YOU HAVE SOME TOO, MLILE.

*MNCH MNCH モ？モ？

NOW LOOK ...

IT SMELLS NICE...

SWEET.

SOMEHOW, IT SETS THE MOUTH AT EASE.

THANK YOU, PRINCESS CHARLOTTE.

I NEVER DREAMED I WOULD ENCOUNTER SUCH A GENTLE TASTE ON THE BATTLEFIELD.

I AM HAPPY, THOUGH...

...IF IT PLEASES YOU.

OH...

NOT AT ALL.

...

HAVE A LITTLE CONSIDER-ATION!

YOU ARE!

*FX: TUG

"ﾅｲ.

C'MERE A MINUTE.

WHAT'S YOUR ISSUE?

IF YOU'RE A WOMAN, NOT TO MENTION A MEDIUM WHO CAN SENSE PEOPLE'S THOUGHTS, THEN EMPATHIZE!

LORD GRIFFITH IS BUSY, AND THEY HARDLY HAVE ANY TIME TO BE ALONE TOGETHER.

NOW SHE FINALLY GETS HER WISH TO BE REUNITED WITH HER LOVER.

HOW TORMENTED MUST SHE HAVE BEEN...

...BY LONELINESS AND ANXIETY, ALONE FOR YEARS AMONGST THE ENEMY?

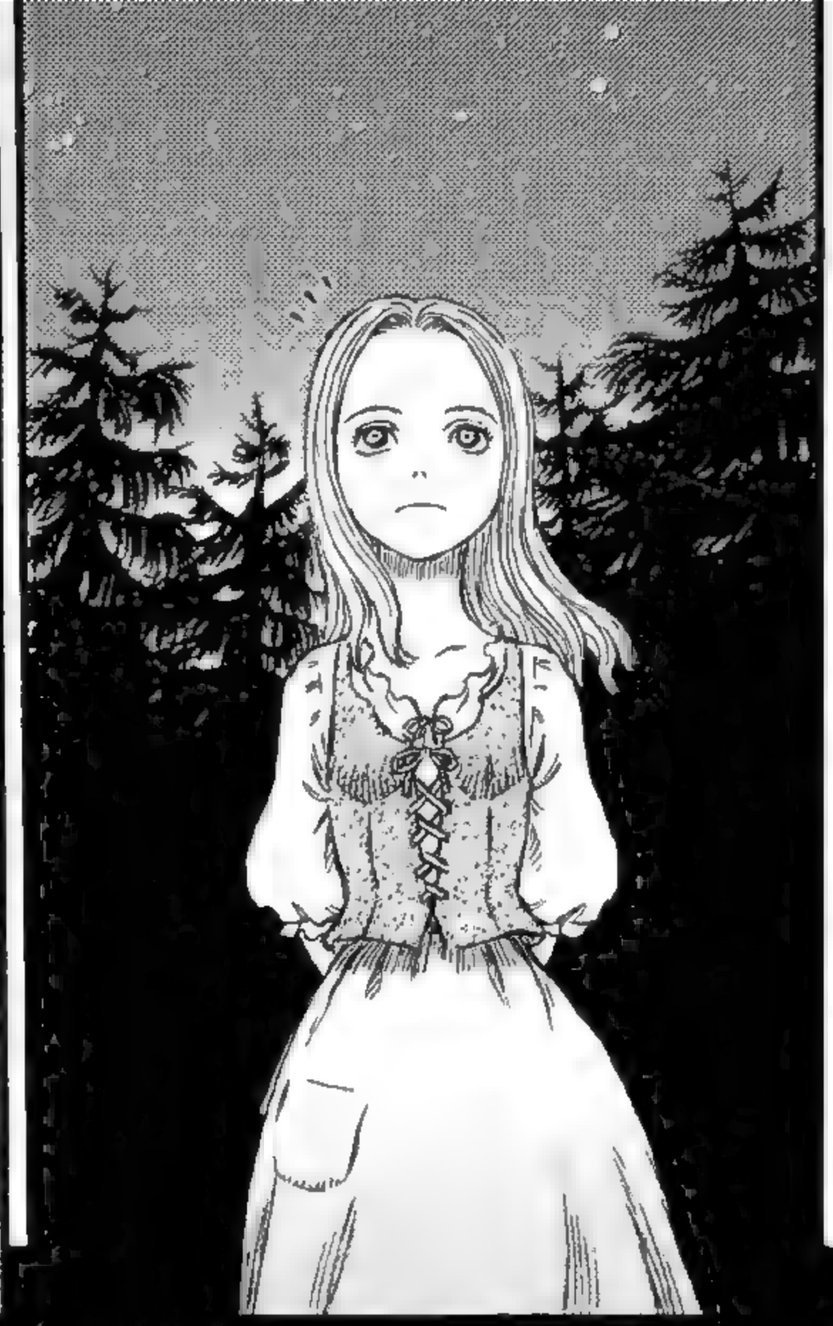
BYE.

YOU CAN HAVE THAT.

OFHH...

*PLUNK
カポ

GOOH GEEFH... MMM, GOOH...



AS YOU WISH.

.....

GOOD EVENING.

MIND IF I WARM MYSELF?

.....

A LITTLE LONELY, THOUGH.

NICE SONG.

AREN'T YOU LONELY ?

YOU'RE ALWAYS BY YOURSELF.

I FEEL CALMER ALONE.

I'M A HUNTER.

HMMMM...

I HUNT ALONE.

THERE ARE THOSE WHO ARE OTHER-WISE...

BUT NOT ME.

DO THEY WALK ALONE IN MOUN-TAINS AND FORESTS?

ARE HUNTERS ALWAYS ALONE?

...I TOO...

BEFORE I KNOW IT...

...HAVE BECOME A ***BEAST.***

*HOOOO

FOR DAYS I RUN THROUGH MOUNTAINS AND RIVERS, CHASING MY PREY.

I LURK ALONE DEEP IN THE FOREST.

THROUGH SO MANY NIGHTS...

...I LOSE TRACK OF TIME.

AND THEN...

AND THEN ?

.....

*ZSHHHHSS

...ALONE, TOO.

I WAS...

YOU KNOW, I...

...WAS DIFFERENT FROM THEIRS.

MY WORLD ALONE...

*SNAKT

HEAR VOICES THEY COULDN'T.

I COULD SEE THINGS OTHER PEOPLE COULDN'T...

I SEE.

.....

...WHO WAS LONELY AND ANXIOUS.

SHE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE...

"HHHH"

.....

THAT NIGHT, I HAD A DREAM.

...PLAYING IN A MOONLIT FOREST.

A DREAM OF A KITE AND AN OWL...

BERSERK

VANDIMION

ヴァンディミオン

BERSERK

SLOWLY ...

...CLOSE YOUR EYES.

LOOK CLOSELY, PLEASE.

CONCEN-TRAAATE.

SO AS TO BURN THE IMAGE INTO YOUR MIND.

SHAPE, COLOR, AS MUCH DETAIL AS YOU CAN.

THE IMAGE OF THE APPLE YOU JUST SAW...

NOW IMAGINE IT.

...BUT SLOWLY.

NOT RUSHED...

THAT IS HOW IT IS, AT FIRST.

IT IS NO USE. THE IMAGE IS BLURRED AND WILL NOT TAKE FIRM SHAPE.

IT IS BASIC PRACTICE FOR "TANGIBLY IMAGINING A PHENOMENON WITHIN YOUR MIND."

THIS IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS BECOMING A MAGIC USER.

MAGIC IS NOT ACCOMPLISHED MERELY BY RECITING A SPELL AND DRAWING SYMBOLS.

IT IS THE CHAINING OF IMAGES IN CONJUNCTION WITH THOSE THINGS THAT FIRST YIELDS EFFICACY.

...IMAGIN-ING...

TANGIBLY ...

THE TROLLS AND THE OGRE...

...AND THAT LIGHT, YES?

YOU HAVE ALREADY FELT A PORTION OF THAT, FARNESE.

IT IS PRACTICED IN THE ASTRAL WORLD.

THE ESSENCE OF MAGIC IS THE WORLD OF THOUGHT.

I'M A PORTION. ♡

...FROM ME PERSONALLY PROCEEDING INTO THE ASTRAL WORLD, OFFERING SUPPLICATION AND RECEIVING ASSISTANCE FROM THE BEINGS...

THAT FOUR-HUED LIGHT IS...

...THE MANIFESTATION OF POWER...

...KNOWN AS THE "FOUR CARDINAL KINGS."

TO ACCOMPLISH THINGS IN THE MIDST OF THAT, MORE THAN ANYTHING IT IS NECESSARY TO MAKE YOUR MIND...YOUR ***ETHEREAL BODY***...ADHERE FIRMLY AS A PROJECTION OF YOUR PHYSICAL BODY, SO AS NOT TO LOSE YOURSELF.

THE ASTRAL WORLD IS COMPRISED OF WILLS AND POWERS--MEMORIES AND PORTENTS IN VARIOUS DOMAINS.

LUMINOUS BODY...

...STABLE PROJECTION A BODY OF LIGHT, A ***"LUMINOUS BODY."***

WE MAGIC USERS CALL THAT UNWAVERING...

PERSISTENT PRACTICE IS SURE TO BEAR FRUIT.

PLEASE DO YOUR BEST.

.....

THAT APPLE IS YOUR FIRST STEP IN OBTAINING YOUR LUMINOUS BODY, FARNESE.

*SNATCH

*FX: SHOMP SHOMP SHOMP

しゃく。
しゃく。
しゃく。

AHH...

...RIGHT NOW I'M...

BUT...

*FX: GREE GREE

WELCOME BACK. HOW DID THINGS GO?

THEY WENT NOWHERE.

THAT WAS SURE A VAIN EFFORT.

AHHH MAN, FORGET IT. NOT A SINGLE BITE.

WE OVERESTI-MATED OUR PROSPECTS.

...BUT EVERY SHIP HAS BEEN COMMANDEERED AS A WARSHIP OR HAS ACCEPTED MILITARY-RELATED COMMISSIONS. THEY CURTLY...WELL, ALL OF THEM TURNED US AWAY WITHOUT NEGOTIATION.

WE TRIED EVERY MARITIME TRADING FIRM, AND EVEN A PRIVATE SHIP CAPTAIN IN THE CITY...

WE WALKED OUR LEGS OFF ALL DAY IN THAT CROWD.

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THIS IS DIFFERENT FROM HOW OUR JOURNEY'S BEEN LEFT TO CHANCE SO FAR.

I ASSUMED SOMETHING'D WORK OUT SO LONG AS WE REACHED A PORT...

UM...

ALL SET TO GO, EH?

AGAIN, SUCH NASTI-NESS.

GUESS NOW WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PLUNDER SOME SHIP...

...MIND LEAVING THIS TO ME?

WOULD YOU...

EH?

!

LADY FARNESE, YOU CANNOT MEAN...

YOU GOT SOME IDEA?

WHAT, FARNY?

I WILL BE GONE FOR A BIT.

SERPICO.

A- AYE...

*FX KLAK

カチャ。

I HAVE ***TRIED*** TO DO AS I WAS TOLD! I'VE STABILIZED THE BANKING OPERATIONS OF THE BRAJUE BRANCH THESE THREE YEARS! MY BRANCH ALSO SINGLE-HANDEDLY MANAGES THE BUYING OF PELTS, LINEN, TIN, AND LEAD FOR THE ENTIRE NORTHERN REGION!

PLEASE, LET ME INTO THE INNER--

IT SHOULD BE ABOUT TIME FOR YOU TO RECOGNIZE MY ABILITY!

WHY, FATHER ?!

YOU'VE DONE *NOTHING* MORE THAN WALK UPON THE ROAD I'VE PAVED.

ABILITY?

MANIFICO.

*GH

...SO WHY SHOULD I NOT--

...AND TO MY BROTHER *POLIZIANO* YOU GAVE THE GRAND GOVERNOR-GENERALSHIP OF THE REALM OF THE HOLY SEE...

TO MY BROTHER *GIORGIO* YOU GAVE THE POSITIONS OF GENERAL FINANCIAL MANAGER OF THE HOLY SEE'S ACCOUNTING OFFICE AND JOINT MANAGER OF THE VANDIMION BANK...

WHY IS IT...?

LEAVE ME.

...

ENOUGH.

THAT WAS AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF THEIR RESPECTIVE TALENTS.

BUT...!

YOU NEED BUT HOLD YOUR TONGUE AND FOLLOW MY INSTRUC-TIONS.

I RECALL NO AFTER-NOON APPOINT-MENTS TODAY...

YOU HAVE A GUEST, MASTER.

SHE ENTRUSTED THIS TO ME.

IT APPEARS TO BE A LADY DRESSED IN MALE GARB, AND HER ATTENDANT...

!

THE LADY GIVES HER NAME AS *FARNESE DO VANDIMION.*

THIS IS...

WHAT?

.....

!

*FX: TAK TAK

*FX: TAK TAK

*FX: CLENCH

F...

FA...

.....

"...!?"

*GULP

WHY HAVE YOU COME HERE?

.....

THAT THEY WERE DESTROYED BY A KUSHAN INVASION WHILE GUARDING ALBION.

I HEARD ABOUT THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS.

BUT FIGURE-HEAD OR NOT, YOU WERE IN CHARGE OF A BAND OF KNIGHTS.

I WON'T SAY THAT WAS YOUR INDISCRETION.

YOU WILL OF COURSE APPEAR BEFORE THE HOLY CITY'S COURT SUPREME TO RECEIVE JUDGMENT.

FOR YOU ALONE TO SURVIVE SHAMELESSLY AND, FURTHER, GO INTO HIDING...

...THE STAR UNDER WHICH YOU WERE BORN WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU SULLY THE HONOR OF OUR *VANDIMION* NAME.

...NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO...

IT WOULD SEEM THAT...

...YOU'RE TO ABIDE QUIETLY IN THIS MANSION.

UNTIL I SAY OTHER-WISE...

...FA...

YES...

LADY FARNESE!

*CLENCH

ギュ・・

*FX: TAK TAK

UH...

UH...

I...

FRIENDS...

A SHIP...

FATHER ...!!

*FX: TAK TAK

LADY FARNESE...

.....

.....

庭園にて

IN THE GARDEN

*FX: SPLASH SPLASH

STOP THAT!

CASCA!

BWAA!

*PLISH

SETTLE D--

*PLISH

...AND I'M ONLY SAYIN' IT BECAUSE I'M BEIN' NICE...

TCH!

DOIN' SOME-THIN' YOU'RE NOT USED TO ALONE IS TOUGH...

I SAID I'D HELP YOU.

C'MO NNN.

NO THANK YOU!

AHHH, NOOO! PLEASE DON'T PULL ON THAT!

YOU'VE GOT A PREVIOUS OFFENSE.

...SO WHAT'S UP WITH THIS CRAP?!

*WOMEN

*PUBLIC BATH

*MEIJI

CRAFTYY.

I'LL SHOW YOU THE POWER OF SADNESS OF SOMEONE WHO COULDN'T BE TRUSTED!

*FX: KTUNK KTUNK KTUNK

THIS IS HOW YOU APPRECIATE A COMPANION WHO'S COME THROUGH SO MANY BATTLES WITH YOU? REALLY, IT'S SO *SAD*, I CAN'T EVEN GET PISSED ABOUT IT.

IT'LL ONLY END IN TEARS IF YOU RESIST HER.

COMBINE TO FORM ISICHAIR.

YOUR NASTY NATURE'S TURNED ME INTO A RAVIN' BEAST!

*FX: MFF MFF

*FX: FWMP

OOH,OOO

CASCA!

HEY...!

H...

WHAT'D I JUST FEEL?!

.....!

*TOTTER

YOU AREN'T LISTENING TO A WORD I SAY!

AHHHH!

COME ON! I TOLD YOU TO STOP!

*TUNK

ガッ

ガシッ

ゴールド

*FX: BLOOSH

*FLING

*FX: TWIRL TWIRL

EE EE EK!

LVD

LVD

JUST USE A SPELL TO MAKE HER SETTLE DOWN.

E-EVEN I CAN HANDLE THIS MUCH WITHOUT USING MAGIC...

ENOUGH ALREADY! CAS--

*PLOFF

イテテ…*owww

*COWER

*ZZZZT

*ZZZZT

プルプル

*FX: SHUDDER

*FLASH

*FX: SMOLDER

PLEASE DON'T REMEMBER THIS!

CINDERS …

*DASH

*UWEHHH

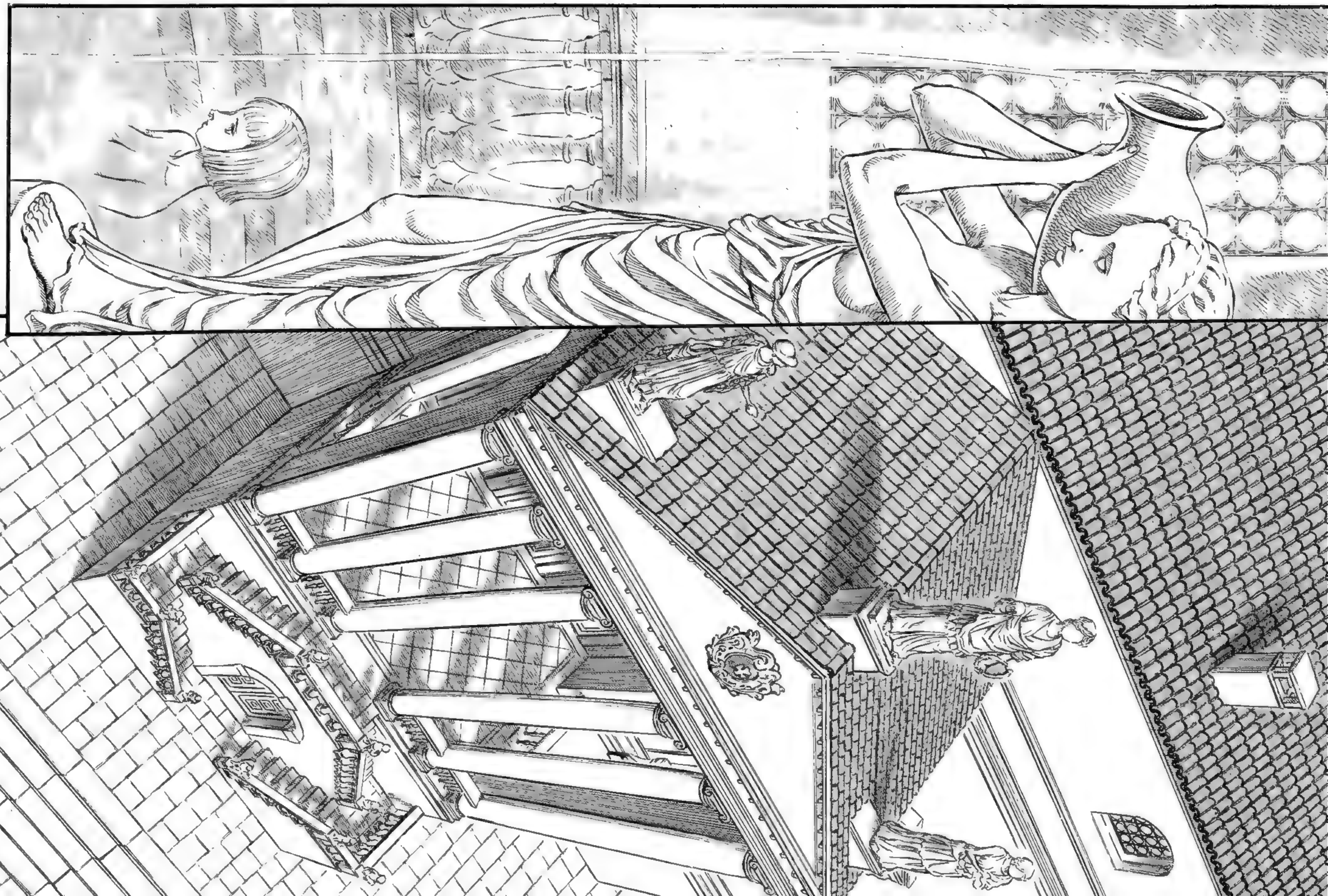
P…

*BLLB BLLB

*TWITCH TWITCH

*KOFF

THEY'RE TAKIN' SO LONG.



...SINCE I TOOK A BATH BY MYSELF.

IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

MILADY.

YOUR CHANGE OF CLOTHES IS PREPARED.

CASCA...

I WONDER IF HER HAIR'S BEING WASHED PROPERLY...

*PLASH

YES...

THEY CAN DO WITHOUT ME, AT LEAST...

SHOULD YOU REQUIRE, WE WILL PREPARE NEW ONES.

THEY WERE DAMAGED, SO WE THOUGHT WE WOULD DISPOSE OF THEM...

WHERE ARE MY DAGGER AND SHIRT...?

.....!

MILADY!

PLEASE, WAIT!

PLEASE, YOUR CLOTHES...!

LADY FARNESE!

L...

*HOH

WAIT RIGHT THERE!

YOU!

UM, YES...?

BROTHER. MANIFICO...

YOUR BEHAVIOR IS AS UNPRECEDENTED AS EVER, LITTLE SISTER.

*TOK ﾌﾝﾜﾘ

.....

NO WONDER FATHER'S AMAZED.

HOW LONG IT'S BEEN.

HAVE YOU MET WITH OUR OLDER BROTHERS?

WE'VE NOT SEEN EACH OTHER IN YEARS, SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE SENT TO THE CONVENT.

NATURALLY!

*HA HA HA HA

NO...

THE VANDIMIONS AREN'T VERY TIGHTLY KNIT.

YOUR WORK WITH THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, AND THE UNFORTUNATE TROUBLES THAT FOLLOWED.

BUT MUCH REGARDING YOU HAS REACHED MY EARS.

A PITY, THAT.

.....

NO FAULT LIES WITH YOU.

BUT LIFT UP YOUR EYES.

THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY.

HE GAVE HIS TACIT CONSENT WHEN THE HOLY SEE'S PRIESTS MADE YOU THE LEADER OF THE HOLY IRON CHAIN KNIGHTS, THOUGH YOU KNOW NOTHING, AND ***NOW*** SEE HOW HE SPEAKS TO YOU.

INSTEAD, FATHER DESERVES THE BLAME.

THIS GIRL, WANDERING THE HUGE GARDEN ALL ALONE, LIKE SOME KIND OF GHOST.

I REMEMBER WHEN I'D VISIT THE MANSION IN THE HOLY CITY, I'D SEE HER.

THAT ISN'T ALL.

.....

THAT'S HARDLY WHAT THAT WAS. HE JUST AIMLESSLY LEFT YOU TO YOURSELF.

HE DID NOTHING SHORT OF ABANDONING HIS RESPONSI-BILITIES AS A PARENT.

WAS HE RAISING A PURE FLOWER IN A GREENHOUSE TO PROTECT IT FROM THE UNCLEAN-NESS OF THE OUTSIDE WORLD...?

DEVIL CHILD...

I...

EVEN IF THE WORDS "VANDIMION DEVIL CHILD" PASSED PEOPLE'S LIPS, THAT IS NOT YOUR OWN INDISCRETION.

EVEN WHEN YOU SET FIRE TO THE MANSION...

...FATHER WAS THE ONE TO BLAME FOR GOADING HIS ONLY DALIGHTER THAT FAR.

.....

IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL.

EH...?

SO...

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

ACTUALLY ...

.....

INFERIOR PRODUCTS THAT DON'T MEET HIS APPROVAL ARE CAST OFF WITHOUT HESITATION OR ANY SHOW OF CONCERN!

THAT ***BASTARD*** THINKS OF HIS FAMILY AS NOTHING MORE THAN COGS IN THE GIANT MACHINE CALLED VANDIMION!

JUST AS IF THEY WERE STONES BY THE WAYSIDE...!

TO THE WEST, BY SHIP, WITH COMPANIONS...?

A JOURNEY?

WE TALKED WITH TRADERS THROUGHOUT VRITANNIS, BUT EVERY SHIP WAS ENGAGED WITH THE WAR EFFORT...

HM...

SO I THOUGHT TO SEE IF FATHER WOULD USE HIS INFLUENCE...

NO. FOR A WOMAN, YOU...

RATHER, I GUESS THIS IS *LIKE* YOU.

VRITANNIS IS NOW LITERALLY OVERFLOWING WITH ANCHORED SHIPS...

BUT IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY NEARLY ALL OF THEM ARE INVOLVED WITH THE WAR.

THE IDEA OF FINDING A SHIP TO CARRY PERSONAL TRAVELERS AT A TIME LIKE THIS...

EVEN IF YOU *DID* ASK FATHER...

.....

THAT WOULD NOT BE BEYOND *MY* POWER.

WHA...?

A SINGLE SHIP.

...MY SISTER.

A REQUEST ...?

...I *TOO* HAVE A REQUEST TO MAKE...

BUT IN RETURN...

.....

YEAH HHH!

GO! GO!

DO IT! DO IT, CRABINGHAM!

WHAP WHAP

BLOW PAST 'IM, CRABZALES!

HELP OUT A LITTLE!

WOULD YOU STOP PLAYING AROUND ?!

*STAGGER

*STAGGER

GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN'S!

*GREEE

FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, ALL OF YOU!

THERE'S TOO MUCH RACKET TO SLEEP.

I'M ALL RIGHT, I JUST HAVE A SLIGHT FEVER...

OH, NO, YOU MUSTN'T GET UP, GUTS.

I WON-DER.

EGHH, MEEE?

LEAVE IT TO ME! I GOTS EXPERIENCE!

PLEASE SEE TO CASCA'S MEAL.

YOU MUST REST A LITTLE AND RECOVER FROM YOUR WOUNDS.

IT WAS ALMOST THE END FOR YOU.

NO! IT IS BECAUSE YOUR MIND HAS BEEN REMISS SINCE COMING HERE, THE FATIGUE FROM YOUR PREVIOUS BATTLES HAS COME OUT ALL AT ONCE.

EH...

I'LL FEED MYSELF.

NO, YOU WILL NOT. SAY *AHHHH.*

*FX: FIDGET

もぐもぐ

*FX: FIDGET

もぐもぐ

...

I USED THE KITCHEN TO MAKE THIS MEDICINAL SOUP. IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE BITTER, THOUGH.

CUTE!

*WHHH

*AGHHHH

*AHHH AHHH

PHOOEY!

*FLINCH

*FX: GREE

*FX: NYAGHHH

THE END.

WHERE'D YOU WANDER OFF TO ALL NIGHT?

DAAAMN, TOOK LONG ENOLIGH.

*TWITCH *TWITCH

*DANGLE

WELL? WHAT ABOUT THE SHIP?

WHERE'S FARNY?

WHATCHA DOIN' ALL DRESSED UP?

チュポン!
!PONK

YAY!

...HAS BEEN ARRANGED.

A SHIP...

チャプ
チャプ

LADY FARNESE...

.....

...WILL NOT...

...BE REJOINING YOU.

LADY FARNESE...

SHE'S NOT COMIN' BACK?

FARNY?

*SLURP

んちゅ！

.....

THE WHITE LILY OF THE FIELD
野の白百合

TAKE THIS.

IF YOU SHOW THIS LETTER TO ANY TRADER IN THE CITY, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACQUIRE A SHIP AND AS MANY SAILORS AS YOU NEED. PLEASE DO NOT OPEN THE SEAL.

WHO'S GONNA LOOK AFTER CASCA?

.....

WHAT'S UP WITH THAT, SERPICO?

AND, SCHIERKE ...

UM...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I AM RETURNING THESE BORROWED ITEMS.

IT AMOUNTS TO LITTLE, BUT OUR VANDIMION BANK SHALL SHOULDER THE BURDEN OF ANY AND ALL EXPENDITURES YOUR GROUP INCURS WHILE IN THIS CITY.

*FWEEEE

ON BEHALF OF THE VANDIMION FAMILY, I OFFER THE SINCEREST GRATITUDE FOR SAFELY RETURNING THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY'S DAUGHTER, FARNESE DO VANDIMION, TO THIS PLACE.

NOW, BY YOUR LEAVE...

AGAIN, I EXTEND OUR FORMAL THANKS.

THERE'S NO HARM IN AT LEAST TELLING US THE REASON, IS THERE?

HEY.

W...

WAIT, SERPICO, PLEASE ...!

THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME TO SAY ON THIS MATTER.

I WANTED TO TRY HAVIN' A FIGHT WITH YOU AGAIN.

...MOTIVATION NO LONGER EXISTS.

THAT...

HER MIND IS CLOSED, OR RATHER, IT SEEMS THAT FARNESE HAS UNTIED MY HAIR... NOW THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE WILL NOT REACH HER.

IT IS NO USE.

SHHH

SO, NOW WHAT?

*TMP TMP

PEOPLLLE ARE AS COLLLD AS IIICE.

ポコ ポコ

WHAT GIVES...? WE'VE ALL CHEATED DEATH TOGETHER SO MUCH, AND IN THE END IT'S A SCRAP OF PAPER AND "HAVE A NICE LIFE"? THIS'S WHY I CAN'T STAND ARISTOCRATS.

BUT, AH WELL.

THIS IS JUST SO ODD! FARNESE WAS SO ZEALOUS ABOUT STUDYING MAGIC!

...AND TAKING CARE OF CASCA! SO TO SUDDENLY DO THIS...

...A VISION OF FARNESE'S SAD FACE CAME ACROSS. AND, SERPICO'S PERPLEXITY...

WHEN I TOUCHED SERPICO'S HAND FOR AN INSTANT...

I THINK...

...THERE ARE SOME CIRCUM-STANCES THEY CANNOT DISCUSS.

AHH! I CAN'T TAKE MY EYES OFF HER FOR A SECOND!

.....

-BLASH

ベチャ

IT AIN'T LIKE ME TO POKE MY HEAD INTO...

...PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS, BUT...

THIS DEFINITELY...

...DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT.

HEY, SHORT-STUFFS.

HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE PLURAL?!

I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK. IT'S AN ELF-ONLY JOB.

*CLATA *CLATA *CLATA *CLATA *CLATA

.....

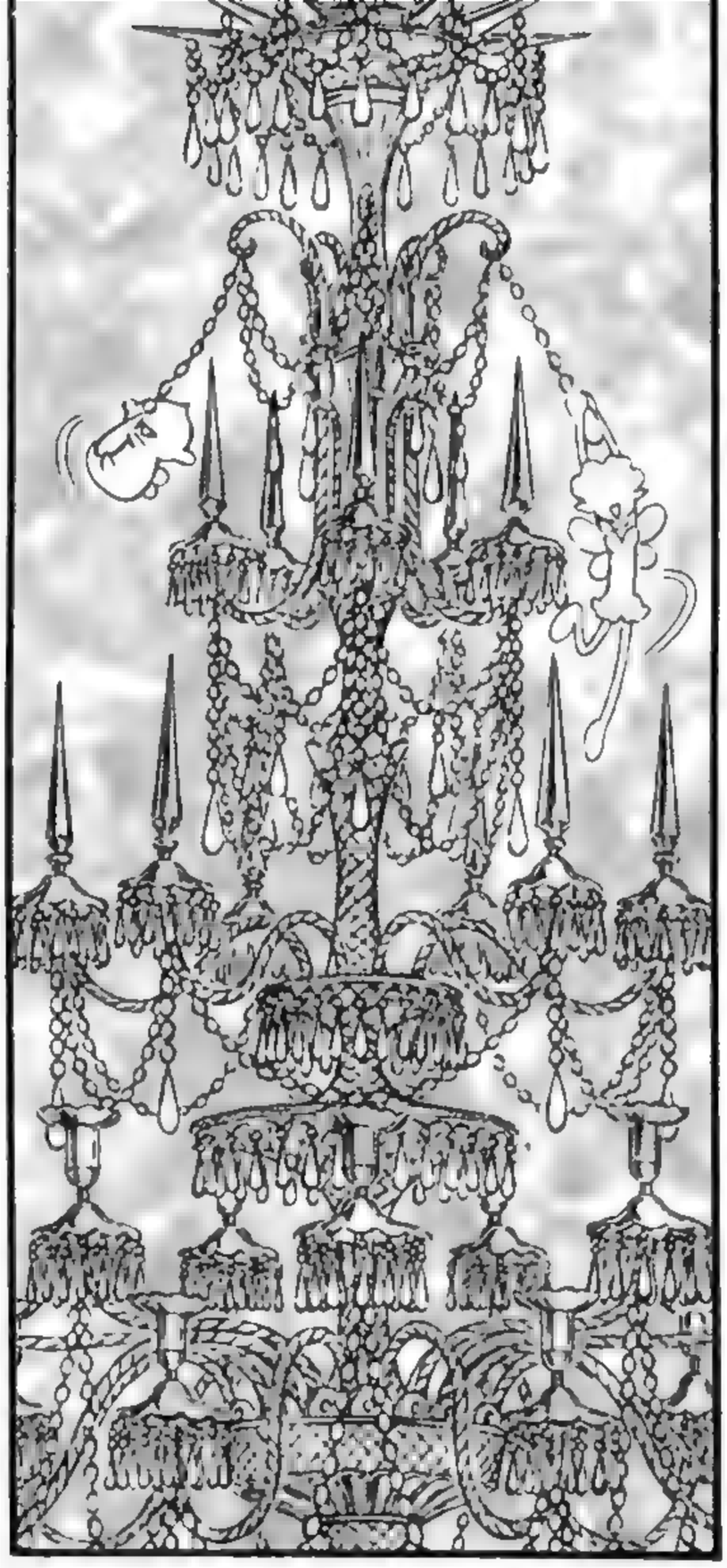
*FX: (excitement)

JUST DON'T HAVE *TOO* MUCH FUN.

THIS IS KINDA WILD... "ARISTOCRATIC STATELY MANSION INFILTRATION REPORT."

AND *DON'T* LOSE SIGHT OF HIM.

ROGER!



BUT WE LOST SIGHT OF SERPY... -:URP:-

THE DINNER SWEETS ...?!

WHEWWW. I'M STUUUFFED. AHHH, CELEBRITY LIFE. ♡

HOW CAN YOU JUST EAT 'N' SLEEP?! GET IT TOGETHER! THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS!

TH- THAT'S RIGHT!

*ULLP

*FX: BONK

WELL! WHO'S SHE THINK SHE IS, DRESSED UP LIKE A PRINCESS?! SHE'S JUST A SERVANT! MINE!

THERE GOES FARNESE!

*YULP

HM?

STOP THA-- -:URLP:-

THERE YOU ARE, FARNESE. EXCEL-LENT.

BRO-THER.

*HHHH

.....

NO NEED TO WORRY, I WON'T STEER YOU WRONG.

I'M PLEASED YOU ACCEPTED MY REQUEST.

!

...MY OLD FRIEND.

GO ON AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF...

I AM *RODERICK OF SCHTAUFFEN*...

IT IS A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU, FARNESE DO VANDIMION.

...AN OFFICER OF THE *IITH* NAVY.

LIFT

HE'S YOUR FIANCÉ.

GREET HIM.

.....

...LADY FARNESE.

I WOULD BE HONORED IF YOU WOULD CALL ME RODERICK...

WHAT THE HELL IS *THIS?!*

*SHAKE SHAKE

WH-WHOA WHOA WHOA WHOOOA !!

HOW DO YOU DO, *RODERICK* ...

THEN LIKEWISE, CALL ME *FARNESE* ...

I HAVE HEARD MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM YOUR BROTHER.

RODERICK IS AN OLD FRIEND FROM MY COLLEGE DAYS. HE'S THIRD IN LINE TO THE ROYAL THRONE OF IITH AND A SHIP'S CAPTAIN IN THE IITH NAVY.

...AND THE WANDERING PRINCESS.

ABOUT THE VANDIMION DEVIL CHILD...

YES.

THAT IS CORRECT.

THAT'S KIND OF ABRUPT...

UH, RODERICK.

*AHAHAHAHAH

?

HM...

YOU ARE INTERESTING.

*CLASP

LOOK AROUND, FARNESE ...

コホン

*AHEM

RODERICK'S GIVEN THEM ALL TO YOU.

...AT THE ROSES SPREAD THROUGHOUT THIS GREEN-HOUSE.

...BUT DO THEY PLEASE YOU?

IT WAS A BIT OF AN EFFORT, MAKING IT WORTHY OF THE DALIGHTER OF THE ESTEEMED VANDIMION FAMILY...

ALL THESE...

THAT'S INCRED-IBLE...

WELLLL, YOU MAKE FOR QUITE THE PICTURE, SURROUNDED BY ROSES!

OH YEAH?!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, RODERICK.

THEY DO.

...CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO LIKE ROSES.

*SCRATCH

ポリ

BUT YOU KNOW...

...FOR MY PART, I JUST...

ALL OTHER FLOWERS LOOK LIKE MERE WINDOW DRESSING.

A SYMBOL OF EVIDENT NOBILITY, THEY BLOOM FULLY AND HALIGHTILY.

ROSES ARE SAID TO BE LADIES AMONG FLOWERS.

OY...

...

D'YOU WANT TO BE LIKED OR HATED?

...INSIDE THE GREENHOUSE THAT IS NOBLE RANK.

COMPETING THROUGH DRESS AND SHOWINESS...

INDEED, JUST LIKE NOBLE WOMEN.

YES.

...ARE GATHERED BY THE HUNDRED OR THE THOUSAND, YOU CAN'T TELL ONE FROM THE NEXT.

BUT EVEN WHEN ROSES...

THESE ROSES...

...ARE A FITTING ADORNMENT FOR YOU.

...EVEN WHEN STRUCK BY A STRONG WIND.

A WHITE LILY OF THE FIELD, WHICH SCATTERS NOT...

.....

I GOT GOSSIP TA SPREAD!

WE'RE OUTTA HERE!

THIS JUST WON'T DO!

WE GOTTA LET EVERYONE KNOW!

*ZHMM

IT'S A *SCANDAL* !!

*KRNCH

*POTATO CHIPS

Y'KNOW WHAT THIS IS?!

.....

ENGAGED ?!

FARNY?

YOU MEAN IF SHE MARRIES HIM, SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO TRAVEL WITH US ANYMORE?

WELL, IT JUST MIGHT MEAN THAT.

YOU BET IT IS! WE JUST GOT A LOAD OF THE GLIY!

WHAT THE HECK?

IS IT TRUE, IVALERA ?

*FX: BOP BOP BOP

"THESE ROSES ARE A FITTING ADORNMENT FOR YOU"...

....HE SAID, OR SOME JUNK.

SOOOO SMUG!

BUT IT FELT SO NATURAL AND BOURGEOIS. FARNESE DIDN'T LOOK ALL THAT UNHAPPY. ♡

I BEG YOUR PARDON ?!

I THINK IT IS OTHER-WISE.

NOT TO MENTION WITH WEIRD INSECTS LIKE YOU.

I'M SURE BEIN' FRIENDS WITH A MONKEY LIKE YOU IS EMBARRAS-SIN' FOR AN ARISTOCRAT.

TALK ABOUT *COLD.*

THEN SHE COULDA JUST SAID SO, INSTEAD OF RUNNIN' OFF ALL OF A SUDDEN.

AND SHE TREASURED HER SILVER KNIFE SO MUCH...

FARNESE'S WISH TO LEARN MAGIC WAS GENUINE.

I AM QUITE UNABLE TO LOOK AFTER HER AS FARNESE DID.

*PSHT しゅっ

*PWEEE スピー

SHE WAS ALSO THE PERSON TO WHOM CASCA WAS MOST ATTACHED.

IT'S THE *OPPOSITE.*

ISN'T STUDYIN' MAGIC SOMETHIN' AN ARISTOCRAT GIRL WOULD JUST FALL INTO ON A WHIM?

BUT STILL, SHE SENT BACK THE SILVER KNIFE AND ALL.

YOU REALLY *DO* TALK TOO MUCH.

YEAH.

UH OH.

...AN ENGAGEMENT WAS SUGGESTED TO HER.

AS COLLATERAL FOR GETTING A SHIP...

OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

ESPECIALLY FOR HER, A DALIGHTER OF NOBLES WITH SUCH A HIGH REPUTATION. I COMPLETELY FORGOT ABOLIT THAT ...

ARISTOCRATIC POLITICAL MARRIAGES ARE PRETTY MUCH A MATTER OF COURSE.

THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE!

Y-YES, RIGHT !

GOOD CALL.

.....

SO...

WHADDA WE DO?

...OR SO I'D LIKE TO THINK.

IT'S WHAT SHE DECIDED HERSELF.

OH MAAAAN...

.....

*SNAP

AH!

*ROLL ROLL

OOO

*DROP

THAT SETTLES IT.

IF THE PRICE FOR A SHIP IS CASCA'S BABY-SITTER AND GOOD FOOD...

...IT JUST AIN'T MUCH OF A DEAL.

MOTHER
母

BERSERK

...LITTLE MORE...

A...

.....!!

IT FEELS LIKE...

...I'M SO CLOSE.

.....

IT WAS SHORT, BUT I FELT A SIGN LIKE SOMETHING WOULD CHANGE INSIDE ME... AND IT MADE MY HEART RACE.

MY PRACTICE OF MAGIC WITH MY MENTOR.

...SILLY CHILD'S PLAY.

...I'M LIABLE TO THINK THAT WAS NOTHING MORE THAN...

BUT THEN, BEING HERE LIKE THIS...

*FX: HYRRRRLL

*FX: ROLL

...LADY FARNESE.

YOU WILL CATCH COLD...

HERE IT IS ALREADY. SPRING.

YET THE SNOW LINGERS.

.....

...IN THIS PLACE, THE SNOW FALLING ON US...

BEING WITH YOU...

IT FEELS JUST LIKE BEING IN THAT MINIATURE GARDEN IN THE HOLY CITY.

...WERE ALL A DREAM...

...AS IF THE FEELINGS I FELT ON THAT STRANGE JOURNEY...

AS IF THAT JOURNEY...

.....

...WANTED TO BE USEFUL.

I...

...NOBODY BUT *I* COULD DO.

BY DOING SOME-THING...

...TO ALL OF THEM.

I WANTED TO BE HELPFUL...

...I RAN BACK HOME.

HERE, WHERE I'M ACCUS-TOMED.

COLD...

...AND ENCLOSED.

THE WARMER IT GOT...

...THE MORE I THOUGHT ...

...I MIGHT HAVE A PLACE THERE.

BUT I COULDN'T STAY...

...AND IN MY ANXIETY...

I WAS UNABLE TO STAY THERE...

...AT THAT FIRESIDE CIRCLE OF LIGHT, GIVEN TO ME SO UNEXPECT-EDLY.

THERE WAS WARMTH...

...YET I COULD OFFER IT NOTHING IN RETURN.

BUT...

I'M SURE THAT WAS...

...AN EXCUSE.

...A COWARD...

...AND A FOOL.

I'M...

LADY FARNESE...

*MURMUR

ザワ ザワ

IT'S...

...MOTHER.

FARNESE.

SO...

WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

AS ARE YOU, MOTHER.

YOU'RE LOOKING WELL, AFTER SO LONG.

WHAT BRINGS *YOU* HERE?

DIDN'T YOU STEAL AWAY FROM YOUR HOLY KNIGHTS AND GO MISSING...?

.....

OH, SPEAKING OF WHICH...

I THOUGHT I WOULD COMPLETE MY TRIP BY TAKING IN A BATTLE-FIELD.

AND HOW NICE THAT THE ARMIES ARE SO HEROIC AND FULL OF STALWART SOLDIERS. ♡

AS I CAN'T ABIDE THE COLD, DURING THE WINTER I WAS SAILING ABOUT THE SOUTHERN ISLANDS.

WELL...

MUCH HAS HAP-PENED.

YOU?

BETROTHED ?

OH, MY.

A ROYAL GENTLEMAN WHO IS AN OLD SCHOOL FRIEND OF MANIFICO.

WHO IS HE?

I SWEAR.

WHEN IT COMES TO VANDIMION MEN...

HMPH.

MANIFICO SAID HE WOULD AT SOME POINT FIND A CHANCE TO TELL HIM...

DOES YOUR FATHER KNOW?

...KINDLY USED THE WORD...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH THIS?

"INTER-ESTING"...

...TO DESCRIBE ME.

DOES IT SEEM YOU'LL GET ON WELL WITH HIM?

HE...

WELL...

I...

...HAVE ANY MAN OF WHOM YOU'RE FOND?

DO YOU...

!

TO ME, HE'S...

NO...

YOU DON'T SEEM LIKE THAT DAUGHTER WHO HAD THE HEAD OF THE VANDIMION FAMILY AT A LOSS.

YOU'RE OUT OF SORTS, SOME-HOW.

.....

...FEARS YOU.

YOUR FATHER...

BUT I NEVER...

OH, YOU DIDN'T KNOW?

HUH...?

...HE'S *WEAK.*

YOU SEE...

SO HE WANTS...

...EVERY-THING SITUATED WHERE HE CAN HANDLE IT.

HE'S WEAK...

YES.

FA-THER IS?

HIM ...?

IN MY EYES, ***HE*** IS SLAVE TO THE WORLD. WELL, I SUPPOSE IF HE WASN'T SO ABNORMAL, HE WOULDN'T BE CUT OUT TO BE THE VANDIMION HEAD.

HE MOVES PEOPLE AND THINGS ALL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD LIKE THEY WERE TOYS, AND ONCE EVERYTHING IS ARRANGED ACCORDING TO HIS OWN ***SCHEMES,*** HE FINALLY RELAXES.

TO SOMEONE LIKE HIM...

...YOU'RE AN ***ENIGMA.***

A LITTLE ***MONSTER.***

I AM...?

TO FATHER...?

THAT...

THAT ***CANNOT*** BE!

...TO FATHER ABOUT...

I...

...MY OWN FEELINGS.

...NEVER COULD...

...SAY ONE WORD...

NEVER...

...NOD AT WHATEVER HE SAID...

I NEVER COULD DO MORE THAN...

FARNESE...

...IS NOT ALL THERE IS TO COMMUNICATING FEELINGS...

THE USE OF WORDS...

...EXPRESSED YOUR UNUTTERABLE, REPRESSED FEELINGS THROUGH THE MOST UNEXPECTED BEHAVIOR.

YOU'VE ALWAYS...

LIKE A BABY, WITHOUT SPEECH...

...CRYING AND SHOUTING FOR ALL IT'S WORTH.

HE HASN'T THE STRENGTH TO ACCEPT THINGS HE DOESN'T COMPREHEND.

YOUR FATHER FEARED YOU FOR THAT.

.....

AND SO YOUR HEART IS NAKED, NOT CLAD IN ANY SHELL.

YOU WERE RAISED ALL ALONE, LIKE SOME BEAST OF THE FIELD, NEVER EXPERIENCING A PARENT'S WARMTH OR THE WORLD OF MAN.

WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR FEELINGS, YOU ARE ARTISTIC...

SO MUCH SO THAT YOU CAN'T ABIDE THIS WORLD.

...THEN YOU, MORE FAMILIAR WITH PAIN THAN MOST...

...COULD PROBABLY COME TO BE KINDER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

BUT YOU KNOW...

IF YOU WERE ABLE TO FIND A PLACE FOR YOURSELF SOMEWHERE...

BUT AS A MOTHER, I'M PROUD TO HAVE A DAUGHTER LIKE YOU.

I DON'T EXACTLY REMEMBER RAISING YOU AS SUCH...

MOTHER...

WHAT A THING TO SAY...

PERHAPS YOU HAD ME AS A BAD EXAMPLE FROM WHICH TO LEARN?

MANIFICO SAID SO...

...DID HE?

?

MILADY.

YOUR COACH HAS BEEN PRE-PARED.

APPARENTLY A BALL IS BEING HELD IN ANTICIPATION OF TOMORROW'S DEPARTURE FOR THE FRONT. IT'S SPON-SORED BY THE MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, AND PERSONAGES FROM EACH COUNTRY ARE INVITED. MANIFICO SAID I MUST BE SURE TO ATTEND...

WHERE TO?

OF COURSE NOT...

SOUNDS INTERESTING. I WONDER IF YOU'D BE AGAINST MY ACCOMPANYING YOU?

SO WHADDA WE DO?

JUST WAIT FOR IT TO GET DARK AND--

WE'LL WALK RIGHT IN.

!

YEAH, BUT...

IS THIS *WHOLE* THING FARNY'S PLACE?

TOO MUCH SPACE...

MAN... NOTHIN' BUT WALLS!

WE'LL JUST GO AND SEE HER.

THERE'S NOTHIN' TO BE ASHAMED OF, REALLY.

AND YOU, WITH THAT OUTFIT OF YOURS...

WHY'D WE BRING CASCA ALONG?

I GOT A FEELIN' THIS'LL MEAN TROUBLE...

IF THAT'S NO GO, WE'LL DEAL WITH IT THEN.

ANY-WAY...

BESIDES, I WANT THINGS TO RETURN TO THE WAY THEY WERE, AND QUICKLY.

WELL, YEAH, THAT'S TRUE.

WE COULD *NEVER* LEAVE CASCA BY HERSELF AT THE INN.

AND SHE'LL BE BAIT TO LURE FARNY BACK.

IN THAT CASE, IT IS EASIER TO FOCUS THIS WAY.

YUP, WITCHES ARE AS WITCHES WEAR. ♡

THE NEED FOR MAGIC MAY ALSO ARISE.

ガラ ガラ
*CLATA CLATA

HM?

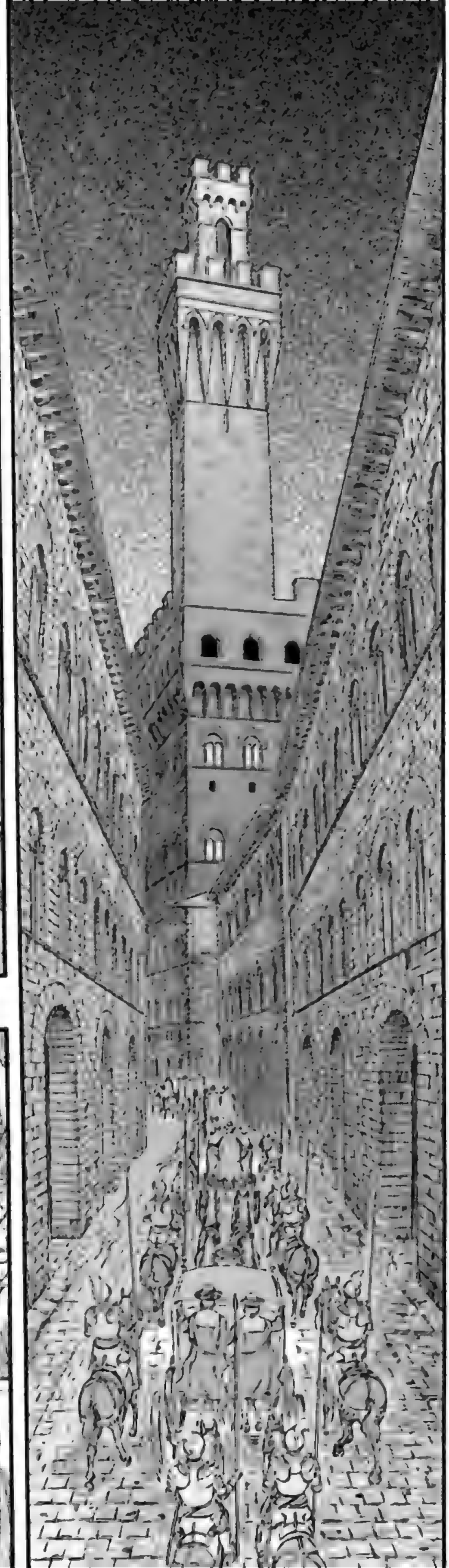
I'LL SAY...

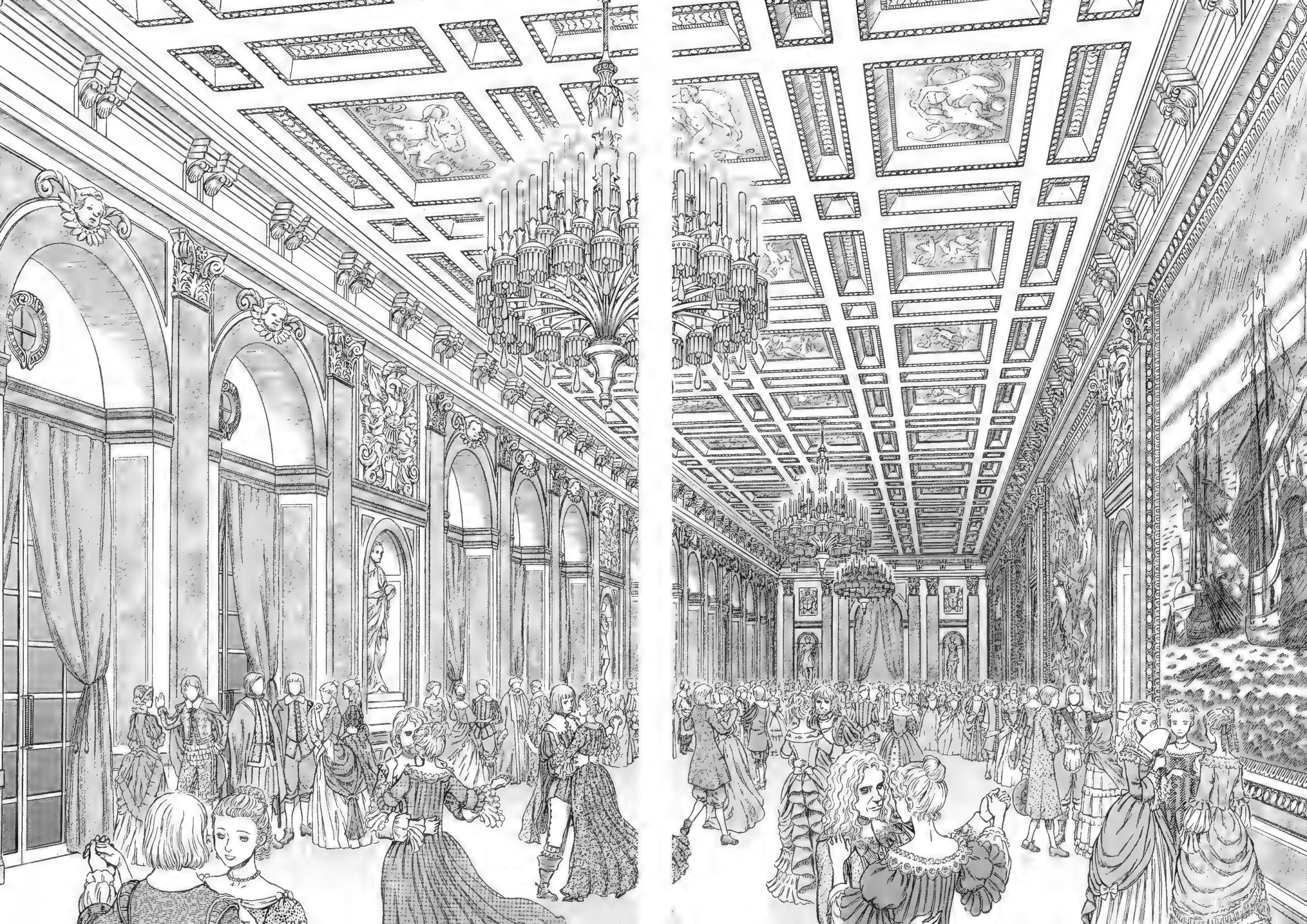
!

カッカッ
*BRBMMM

THE BALL
舞踏会

BERSERK





GRAND GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF THE HOLY SEE REALM, AND RECOGNIZED AS THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THE NEXT PONTIFF.

POLIZIANO DO VANDIMION.

JOINT MANAGER OF THE *VANDIMION BANK*, FATHER'S RIGHT-HAND MAN, AND IN REALITY THE NEXT HEAD OF THE VANDIMION FAMILY.

GIORGIO DO VANDIMION.

BUT THERE ARE MANY NATIONS THAT WOULD GET NOWHERE WERE IT NOT FOR VANDIMION BACKING.

THIS WAR WILL BE NO EXCEP-TION.

...IS DESPERATE TO BE IN FAVOR WITH THE NEXT TYRANT.

EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM...

HAVE YOU NO *SHAME* ?!

CONSPIRING WITH *CHUDER*, OF ALL PLACES...

YOU SWINE !!

WHOCK

WHO ARE THEY?

AHH.

LORDS OF MIDLAND.

EVEN IF THE KUSHAN ARE REPELLED, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT EACH NATION'S ARMY WILL BY NO MEANS SHY AWAY FROM REMAINING THERE.

THE PUBLIC REASON FOR THIS WAR IS TO RECAPTURE HOLY SEE TERRITORY FROM THE KUSHAN INVASION, BUT EACH NATION'S TRUE MOTIVE IS TO CARVE MIDLAND'S DOMAIN INTO AS MANY PIECES AS POSSIBLE.

IF THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES WELL, THEY MIGHT AT LEAST PROCURE THE POSITION OF REGIONAL GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

THAT'S WHERE THEIR THOUGHTS LIE.

TO THAT END, WHAT COUNTRY, WHAT POWER, WILL THEY SIDE WITH?

AND NOW, WITH NO KINGDOM, HOW WILL *THEY* REGAIN THEIR TERRITORIES?

*FX: WHACK

BOTH OF YOU...!

PLEASE, DESIST FROM THIS!!

UNHAND ME!!

ARGHH !!

STOP IT!!

...STOP AIRING THE SHAME OF OUR KINGDOM IN PUBLIC!!

I WOULD HAVE YOU...

.....

BUT FROM WHOM I MEAN TO ASK ASSISTANCE IS NOT SOME RANDOM ARISTOCRAT OR ROYALTY.

CER-TAINLY.

SIR OWEN.

DIDN'T WE NOBLES EACH COME TO THIS PLACE IN SEARCH OF ASSISTANCE?

.....

YOU MIDLAND LORDS.

IT IS ALL OF YOU.

HOWEVER, AT A TIME LIKE THIS, MORE THAN EVER, AS MIDLANDERS WE MUST BIND TOGETHER OUR STRENGTH IN ORDER TO RECLAIM OUR KINGDOM...

AS A NOBLEMAN, I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU PLACE ABOVE ALL THE RELIEF OF YOUR TERRITORIES AND SUBJECTS.

...IF THE ROYAL FAMILY LIVES.

THAT IS...

NOW, WITH NO ROYAL FAMILY, MIDLAND IS...

TO US, THE ROYAL FAMILY IS THE KINGDOM ITSELF.

MIDLAND IS AN ANCIENT KINGDOM. THEREFORE AS NOBLES, TO US THE ROYAL BLOODLINE IS SACRED, A PEERLESS FOCUS OF OUR LOYALTY.

.....

...AN UNFULFILLED DREAM...

SIR LABAN, WHERE ARE YOU NOW...? DID YOU MANAGE TO SAFELY INFILTRATE WINDHAM?

SUCH A SAD THING, THE SUBJECTS OF A DEAD KING...!!

WHAT OF PRINCESS CHARLOTTE'S SAFETY...?

...AND IT STINGS.

I CAN DO NOTHING FOR YOU...

WHAT A MISERABLE THOUGHT.

KNIGHTS OF A DEAD KINGDOM...

.....

AND AS ONE DESPAIRED BY HIS OWN FAMILY, I SAY THE SAME.

...MY HAT'S OFF TO THEM.

SPEAKING AS ONE DESPAIRED BY HIS OWN COUNTRY...

...REMAINING YEARS LIVING IN SUCH IDLENESS.

BUT WE'RE YOUNG, AND WE'LL NEVER SPEND OUR...

...YOU CALL THE WORLD.

...IN THIS BIRDCAGE...

DRINK STALE WINE TOGETHER TO YOUR DELIGHT...

GO ON AND SCRABBLE.

HE WHO OPENS THE UNKNOWN SEA ROUTES AND SETS FOOT UPON UNEXPLORED LANDS...

HE WHO CONQUERS *THOSE* WILL BE THE CONQUEROR OF THE AGE.

WHAT'S TO COME IS NOT AN AGE OF THE GENTLE, FULLY MAPPED INLAND SEAS...

...BUT OF THE RAGING, OPEN OCEAN.

IITH, ON THE NORTHERN FRONTIER, SURROUNDED BY OCEAN, HAS, UNLIKE OTHER PRINCIPALITIES, BUILT UP A HISTORY OF SHIPBUILDING, SEAFARING, AND A REFUSAL TO YIELD TO THE ROUGH SEA. PAYING NO MIND TO THAT SUPERIORITY, THEIR INSULARISM MAKES THEM LOATHE THE INTERVENTION OF OTHER NATIONS, AND THEY THINK OF NOTHING BUT SECLUSION.

NEITHER MY FATHER NOR MY SUBJECTS ACTUALLY UNDERSTAND THAT POINT.

...HOW TO MOVE AND REARRANGE PIECES ON HIS LIMITED CHESSBOARD.

MY FATHER IS THE SAME. HE DISPLAYS INTEREST IN NOTHING BEYOND...

...ARE FORLORN FELLOWS IN THIS CAGED WORLD.

WE TWO, ALIENATED BY FAMILY AND ABANDONED BY NATION...

IF WE'RE TO WANDER FORLORN...

...WE'LL JUST PUT TO SEA.

WE WILL SEIZE THE COMING AGE.

OUR BOND, THE GODDESS OF VICTORY, ARRIVES.

BROTHER.

I LIKE THAT SIDE OF YOU...

HOLD THAT THOUGHT, MANIFICO.

...ENOUGH INELEGANT TALK.

BUT FOR NOW...

...HE WON'T BE ABLE TO CANCEL IT ON PERIL OF HIS HONOR AS FAMILY HEAD. ONCE THAT'S DONE, NOT ONLY YOU AND I, BUT VANDIMION AND IITH WILL BE...

NO MATTER WHAT FATHER MAY SAY, WE'RE IN PUBLIC. ONCE THIS BETROTHAL IS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED ...

I'VE LOOKED FORWARD TO SEEING YOU, MY PRINCESS.

I WONDER IF I MAY REQUEST THE FIRST DANCE WITH YOU?

Y-YOU MAY...

MY, MY, NEVER CEASING TO AMAZE...

WHAT A SUPERB GENTLE-MAN.

...MANIFICO?

WON'T YOU INTRODUCE ME, TOO...

I JUST ARRIVED TODAY.

THAT WAS YOUR FRIEND, FARNESE'S FIANCÉ?

HE'S QUITE NICE, THOUGH A BIT MISCHIEVOUS LOOKING.

WHEN DID YOU GET HERE?

MOTHER ...!

IS IT SOMETHING HE SHOULD NOT KNOW?

IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN FROM FATHER ...?

OH.

WHERE DID YOU HEAR THAT...?!

OH, YOU KNOW.

M-MOTHER!

*SNAP

パチ

YOUR BLOOD IS UNDENI-ABLE.

MOTHER ...!!

ホホホホホ

*FX: HO HO HO HO HO

YOU'VE GRADUALLY BECOME MORE AND MORE LIKE YOUR FATHER IN HIS YOUTH.

BE CAREFUL OF HER WHEN SHE'S OBEYING WHAT SOMEONE SAYS.

ESPECIALLY WHEN SHE SEEMS SUBMIS-SIVE.

PLEASE STOP TEASING.

HARDLY ...

LISTEN TO SOME ADVICE.

...AT PEACE WITHIN THE SCHEMES OF MEN.

SHE'S NOT THE KIND OF WOMAN WHO'S...

JUST LIKE YOUR FATHER.

YOU'LL BE SORRY IF YOU DON'T LISTEN.

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO--

.....

YES, I REMEMBER NOW.

I AM SERPICO, MADAM.

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE YOU CAME TO THE ESTATE.

YOU'RE FARNESE'S SERVANT, UM...

MY LIFE WAS SAVED BY LADY FARNESE AT A YOUNG AGE. DUE TO THAT, I RECEIVED THE HONOR OF BEING BY HER SIDE.

IT HAS BEEN OVER TEN YEARS.

THEN YOU MUST BE FAIRLY ***WARPED*** AS WELL.

MORE THAN A DECADE ALONG-SIDE FARNESE ...

REALLY.

...BECAUSE THEY CANNOT STAND WITHOUT ENTWINING AGAINST EACH OTHER, JUST LIKE A PAIR OF TREES.

SUCH COMPANIONS CANNOT BE SEPARATED...

.....

SHE IS QUITE ASTUTE.

HOW LOVELY, THE SCENT OF THE FORBIDDEN.

YOU WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK AFTER HER, THEN.

AGAIN?

HALT!

WHO GOES ?!

HM ?

I WANNA GO INSIDE.

HNNN... IT'S COLD.

LOOKS LIKE THE SNOW'S STOPPED.

I BEG YOUR PARDON, BUT YOU WILL ALLOW US TO PASS.

PEOPLE WE KNOW'RE HERE! WE'VE COME FOR THE PARTY!

HERE IT IS!

GOOOOD NIGHT SHIFT!

列柱の間 THE COLONNADE CHAMBER

HUH?

A FREE PASS.

DID SOME-THING JUST...?

GO RIGHT IN, EH?

IT'S NO EXAGGERATION TO SAY I'M A GOURMET ELF. I'LL OFFER MY COMMENTARY.

IF THIS'S A PARTY, I BET THEY'VE GOT A BUNCH OF GOOD EATS.

FOOD FIGHTERS, HUH?

DON'T GET CARRIED AWAY, YOU TWO!

I AM USING A SPELL TO DISTRACT OD, BUT IF YOU MAKE TOO MUCH NOISE WE WILL BE DISCOVERED.

QUIET.

*FX: SLRRRP

*FX: FWOOOOS

THAT WAS SUDDEN ...!!

WHOA!

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN MY MIND. THIS IS THE FOG FROM WHEN WE WERE ATTACKED AT THE BEACH CABIN...

Y'MEAN...

.....

SOMETHING FIERCE AND HOSTILE.

IT IS COMING.

OH, YUCK.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS CITY?!

...THOSE ARE GONNA SHOW UP AGAIN?!

CRIKEY!

THIS FOG ROLLED IN QUICK.

*ZHF

*ZHR

*ZHF

*ZHF

*ZHF

ガッ ドッ

*FX: CHRNK SHROK

*FX. CLANNNG

ガランガラン

NOT A CROC.

WH- WHAT THE HELL'S *THAT...?*

*FX: HHHHH

*ZHA

*GRRR

*LUNGE

ALLOY CAT

THAT'S... TOO BIG FOR AN ALLEY CAT.

.....

...I SENSE OMINOUS OD.

AS WITH THAT TIME...

IT'S STRANGE.

YEAH, IT JUST RAN PAST.

YOU'D THINK SOME-THING LIKE THAT WOULD COME ATTACK US.

...WE'D BETTER HURRY.

BUT IF SOMETHING LIKE *THAT'S* SLIPPED IN HERE...

HEHEH

THANKS TO THIS FOG, THOUGH, IT'S EASIER FOR *US* TO SLIP IN.

WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN HERE?

CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHIN' WITH MAGIC?

IT WILL TAKE A LITTLE TIME WITH THAT MANY PEOPLE, BUT I WILL SEE WHAT I--

FIGURES THIS'D BE THE TOUGH PART.

WHAT'S WRONG?

...

WHAT ?

?

HUH ?

THIS WAY.

HE SAYS HE'S WAITING AT THE REAR ENTRANCE.

THOUGHT TRANSFER-ENCE FROM SERPICO.

.....

SERPICO ...?

THIS COLONNADE CHAMBER WAS, AT ONE POINT IN HISTORY, KUSHAN TERRITORY. WHEN THIS LAND WAS WON BACK FROM THEM, IT SEEMS ONE PART OF THEIR PALACE WAS PRESERVED AS A VICTORY MONUMENT.

I APOLOGIZE FOR CALLING YOU OVER HERE.

.....

!

SERPICO.

WE HAVE COME TO SEE FARNE--

GUTS.

THIS IS PRESUMPTUOUS...

...BUT I WILL GRANT YOUR WISH RIGHT HERE AND NOW.

...AS I WILL NOT ALLOW IT TO HAPPEN.

THAT IS UNFORTUNATE...

*GCHAK

SERPICO ...?!

YOU'RE GONNA FIGHT WITH GUTS? HERE?

HUHH?

FINE.

*FLAPA

GUTS, NOT YOU TOO...!

WHAT HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?!

SOMETHING WE CAN'T LET GO OF, I GUESS.

YOU GUYS STAY THERE UNTIL THIS IS SETTLED.

GRAVE DIGGER OF FEAR

THERE'S NOTHIN' TO WORRY ABOUT.

ONE GRAVE GONNA BE ENOUGH?

TWO MEN FIGHTIN' OVER A WOMAN ♡

I MEAN

SCHIERKE, YOU'RE OUTTA THE LOOP HERE!

BUT...

THEY'LL STOP JUST SHORT.

THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL GO AT IT SERIOUSLY.

*SHMM

*CHOK

THAT HUGE SWORD.

IT MUST BE A BIT CLIMBER-SOME.

THE SPACE BETWEEN THEM IS NARROWER THAN NORMAL, AND THEIR NUMBER IS VAST.

THIS COLONNADE CHAMBER IS KNOWN AS THE "FOREST OF PILLARS."

YA SLY FOX!

A TACTI-CIAN, YES.

SO YOU *LED* US HERE...

PRETTY SMART.

*SWP

*SWP

I DO HOPE YOU UNDER-STAND.

SOMETHING TELLS ME I WOULD NOT WIN AGAINST YOU HEAD-ON.

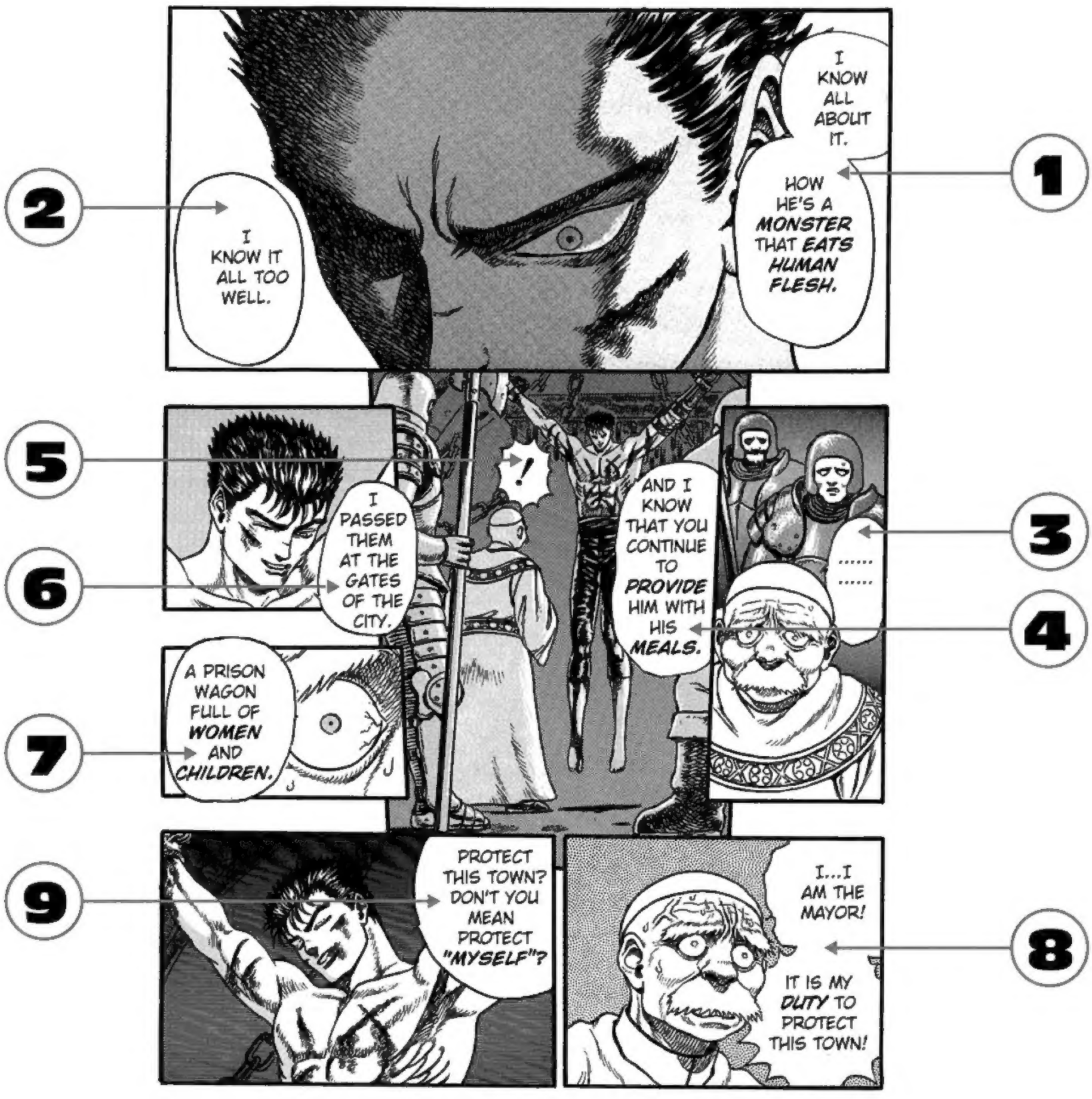
...YOU'RE ONE CUNNING BASTARD.

AS ALWAYS...

STOP

This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format at the creator's request, maintaining the artwork's visual orientation as originally published in Japan. If you've never read manga in this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right corner and will read each balloon and panel moving right to left. It may take some getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun!



COMICS & GRAPHIC NOVELS / MANGA / HORROR

BERSERK

KENTARO MIURA 29

ベルセルク 三浦建太郎

Guts, the Black Swordsman, and his companions have finally broken free of the monster-infested wilderness and arrived at the port city of Vritannis. But the band finds out all too quickly that humans can be just as monstrous as the nightmarish creatures and apostles they battled in the forest. As Schierke and Isidro face off against pirate slavers, Farnese's power-hungry family tries to force her once again under the yoke of their political ambitions. The group's only hope is to find a ship out of the city, but even if they manage to secure a vessel, will everyone be free to leave?

Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is a howling manga tsunami, an epic graphic-fiction masterpiece that leaves no stone unturned and no blade unbloodied. A boiling blend of action, horror, and humor, *Berserk* is not for the faint of heart, the weak of knee, or the lilied of liver. No Guts, no glory!

This collection is translated into English but oriented in right-to-left reading format, as originally published.

DARK HORSE MANGA

FOR READERS 18+
FOR MATURE READERS